Hafa Adai!

Red Cross Gala is postponed to April 23. PAGE 2
Gas prices increase by 20 cents. PAGE 4

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 33

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Over 50 inmates test positive

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Department of Corrections has seen a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases in its facility, with over 50 inmates testing positive last week.

Patrick C. Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, confirmed the recent surge in COVID-19 cases at DOC during last Friday's COVID-19 forum at Kensington Hotel Saipan, saying the Office of the Governor called for the sanitization of the DOC facility last week after over 50 inmates tested positive for COVID-19.

"We had [DOC] sanitized this past week as we did get more inmates test positive.

See OVER on Page 4

Nearly $18M spent on sanitization

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI has already spent roughly $18 million to sanitize various government and private facilities since the COVID-19 pandemic started in the CNMI last March 2020.

Guerrero

Speaking at last Friday's COVID-19 forum at Kensington Hotel Saipan, Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, said the CNMI has spent close to $18 million

See NEARLY on Page 4

24th COVID-related death; 57 new cases

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have confirmed the CNMI's 24th COVID-19-related death.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified that the territory's 308th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 14, 2022.

As of Feb. 14, 2022, there are 11 individuals in the

See 24TH on Page 4

COPE NORTH 22 GOES TO TINIAN

Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lt. Crystal Braham, Health Service Wing health planner, provides medical care to a simulated patient as part of an aeromedical evacuation exercise during Cope North 22 on Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands last Feb. 8, 2022. The medical evacuation exercise tested the medical team's ability to triage, treat and stabilize patients before they are evacuated to a higher echelon of care. U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

More photos on Page 11

Cost of operation vs COVID reaches $94M mark to date

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CNMI received $45M from public assistance program alone, expects to get $35M reimbursement

To date, the CNMI government has received over $40 million from the public assistance program alone and expects an additional $35 million to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, according to Patrick Guerrero, who is the governor's authorized representative to FEMA.

Speaking yesterday before the House of Representatives' Health and Welfare Committee, Guerrero said they expect the $35 million eligible costs will be reviewed by FEMA and reimbursed sooner than later to encompass the first two years of the CNMI's operations against the pandemic.

See COST on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:39pm, Feb. 15, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated: 54.4%

Days since last community transmission: 2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,905
Fully Vaccinated:	36,890
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,326
Fully Vaccinated:	5,174
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,136
Additional Dose:	20,313

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	40,280	611	40,891
Recovered	34,800	583	35,383
Active	4,589	611	5,200
Deaths	307	1	308

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,530	57	7,587
Recovered	5,547	168	5,715
Active	1,789	57	1,846
Deaths	23	1	24

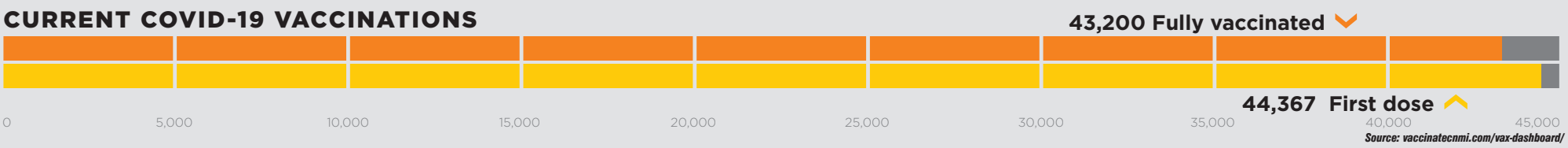
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

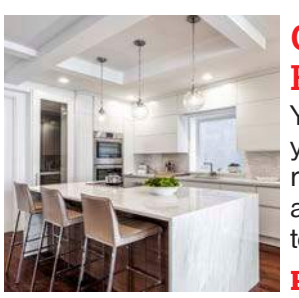


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Island Café & Restaurant along Middle Road in Garapan is celebrating its first anniversary.
Page 12

WORLD
Drought in the Horn of Africa has killed more than 1.5 million livestock and cut cereal production.
Page 13



GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
You're looking to retile your kitchen or bathroom and are at a loss as to which color tile to choose.
Page 14

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

BRIDGE CAPITAL DONATION
Bridge Capital donates $5,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for its upcoming Red Cross Gala, with Jody Jordahl, center, vice president and chief investment officer for Bridge Capital, and Julie Duenas, Bridge Capital office manager, turning over the check to American Red Cross-NMI Chapter officials led by executive director John Hirsh, third from left.

KRIZEL TUAZON

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC
PMB 29 Box 10001,
Saipan, MP 96950
Date: February 15, 2022
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FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS
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New Wave Dental is looking for one employee to work as Dental Assistant. Must have (12) twelve months experience in dental assisting. Applicants must have knowledge in dental procedure and dental terminology and be familiar with CDT Code and Nomenclature.

Interested applicants may submit their CV or Resume at the office location in Microbeach Road, Garapan SaipanMP 96950 during working hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 to 5:30. Interested applicant may also contact Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number (670) 233-3300 or (670)483-4868. Interested applicant may also send their CV or Resume at email address newwavedentalsaipan@hotmail.com or mikehalldds @hotmail.com

Red Cross Gala is postponed to April 23

Due to a significant surge in COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is postponing its upcoming gala fundraising dinner. "Ensuring the health, safety and well-being of our volunteers, donors and [Red Cross] Gala guests is our top priority," said Mable Glenn, NMI Chapter board chair. "While the future is unknown, the NMI Gala Committee has decided, based on COVID taskforce data, that a delay in the gala will help reduce the possible exposure to COVID."

The new Red Cross Gala date is Saturday, April 23, at Kensington Hotel Saipan. The Red Cross is grateful for the community's support and apologizes for the delay.

For more information about the Red Cross or the upcoming fundraising gala, call 234-3459. ***(PR)***

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Comments sought on Kensington plan to use diesel generators, boilers

The Division of Environmental Quality is accepting comments regarding a proposed Synthetic Minor Source Permit for Kensington Hotel Saipan, which is proposing to permanently use, under enforceable limitations, five diesel generators and two diesel boilers for their resort and housing facilities.

Allowing these equipment will ensure air emissions fall below major source levels.

The 30-day public comment period starts today, Feb. 16, 2022, and ends at 4:30pm on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Written comments can be submitted in writing to the BECQ Saipan Office on Middle Road, Gualo Rai, or emailed to deq.air@becq.gov.mp.

The draft permit can be reviewed at the BECQ Saipan Office or accessed via the BECQ website at https://www.deq.gov.mp/news.html.

All written and oral comments received by DEQ will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed activity.

Contact the BECQ-DEQ AIR Branch at 670-664-8500/8516 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about Kensington's draft synthetic minor source permit. ***(PR)***

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Generator Installer and Repairer
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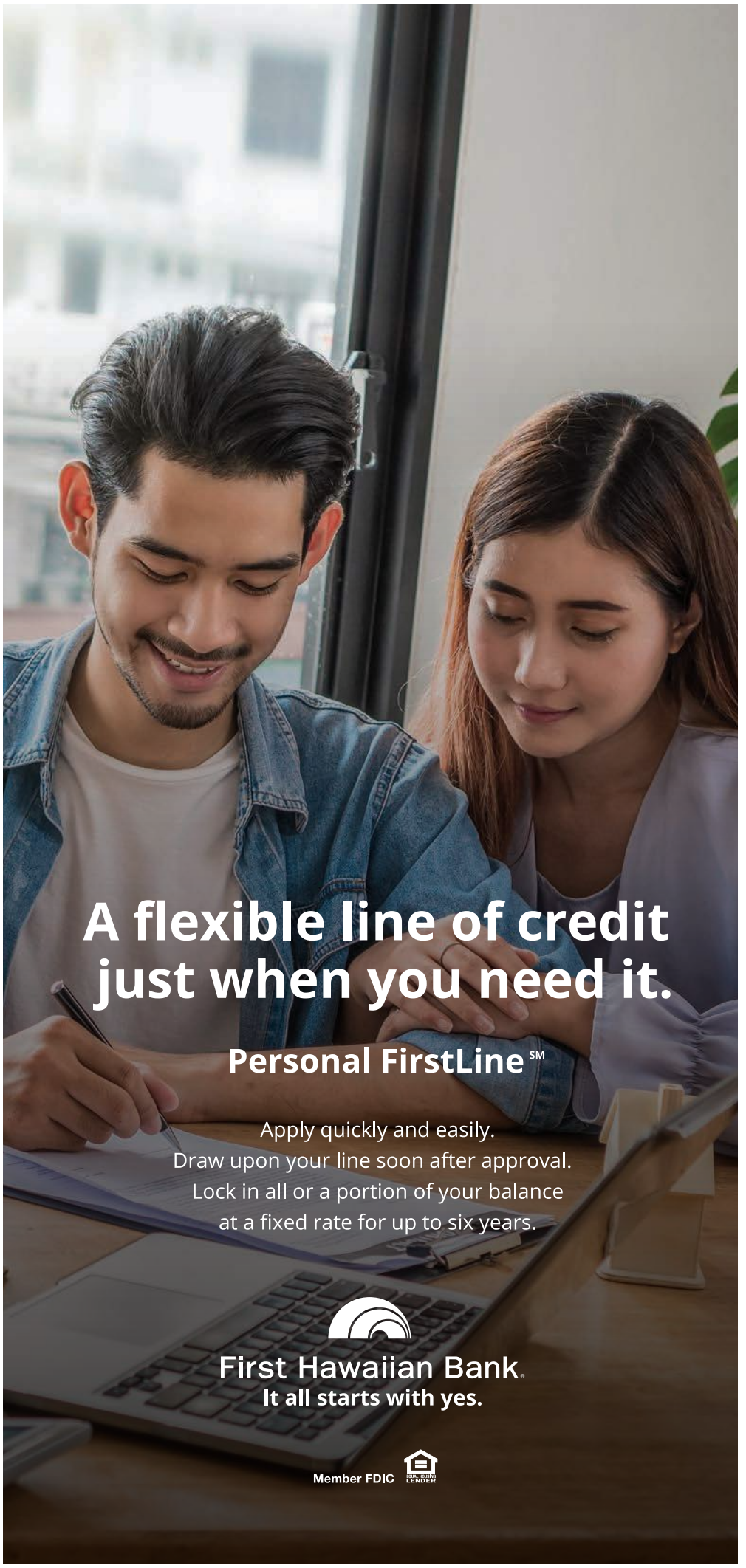
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895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STOCK #: SP21P0141
Trans: 6-Speed Automatic w/OD
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STOCK #: SP21T0193
Trans: 4-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 24,087
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2018 TOYOTA COROLLA IM BASE FWD HATCHBACK
STOCK #: SP21P0185
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 33,812
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2016 SCION IM FWD HATCHBACK
STOCK #: SP21P0169
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 43,954
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2019 TOYOTA C-HR FWD SPORT UTILITY
STOCK #: SP21P0195
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 20,327
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2017 TOYOTA 4RUNNER 4WD SPORT UTILITY
STOCK #: SP21F0170
Trans: 5-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 59,423
NOW $28,999*
2019 TOYOTA TACOMA 4WD DOUBLE CAB
STOCK #: SP21R0187
Trans: 6-Speed
Mileage: 15,223
NOW $35,999*
2019 TOYOTA TACOMA 4WD DOUBLE CAB
STOCK #: SP21P0154
Trans: 6-Speed
Mileage: 18,501
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Gas prices increase by 20 cents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI motorists were walloped with another gas price increase yesterday, this time a 20-cent price hike that saw regular gasoline inching up to $5.46 a gallon.

At around 4pm yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas stations took the lead, with its Extra fuel going up from $ 5.26 a gallon to $5.46. Mobil also hiked its Supreme fuel from $5.71 to $5.91 a gallon.

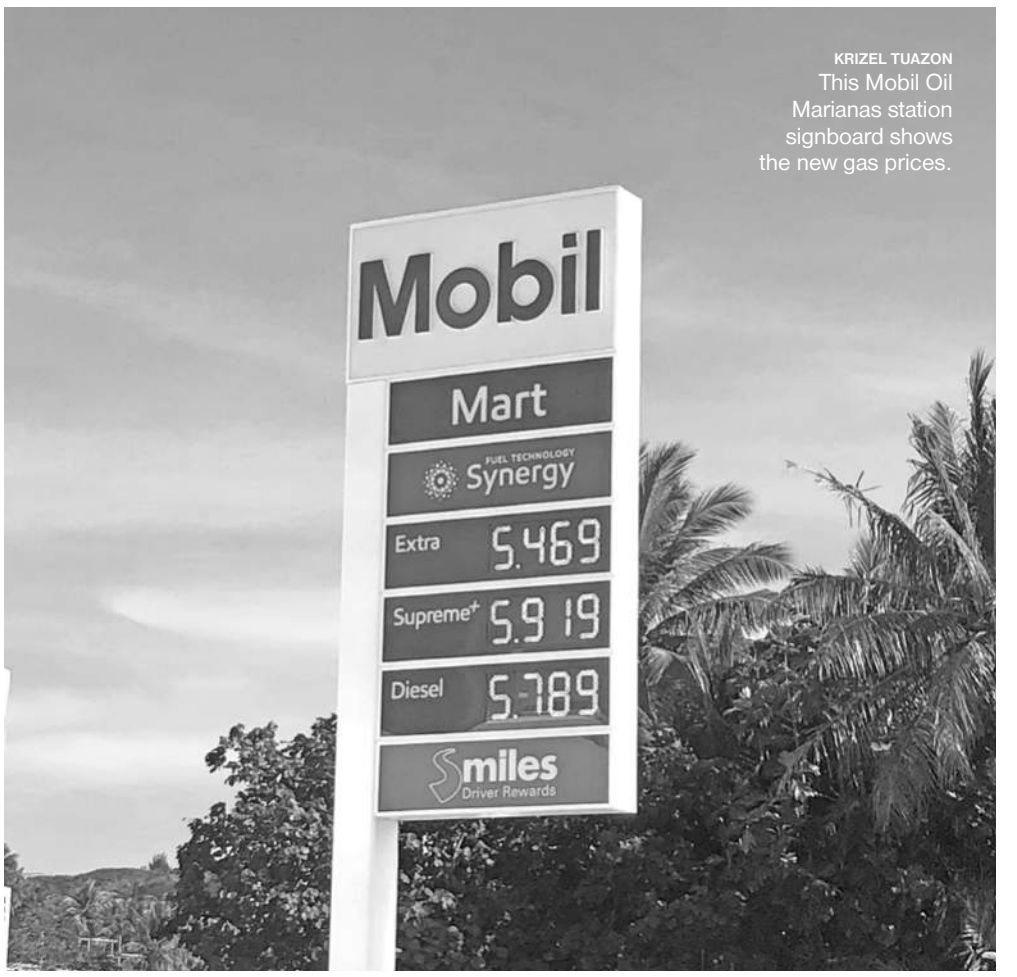
Shell Marianas has yet to increase its prices as of 6pm press time but both oil companies typically mirror each other's price changes, so Shell is expected to impose the same price increase today.

According to a 47-year-old motorist, she said fuel prices is the least of her concerns at this point.

"I'm more concerned about my electricity bill because, as we all know, when gas prices go up, so does electricity. Just this last month, my bill was about $20 more than it used to be and I'm barely home. What I'm trying to say is power is just going to get more expensive and we are not even close to recovering from this ongoing pandemic," she said.

Another motorist expects gas to reach $6 this year with the way things are going. "I'm almost sure we're going to see fuel reach $6 this year by the way things are going. What makes it hard is that most companies aren't even back up and running at 100% but we're dealing with fuel prices every other week," he said.

In related news, effective Feb. 1, the cost of electric power went up slightly due to the continuous increase in oil prices that has impacted the Fuel Adjustment Charge of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The current FAC rate increased to $0.23908 per kWh from of $0.20909.



KRIZEL TUAZON
This Mobil Oil Marianas station signboard shows the new gas prices.

24TH

From Page 1

CNMI who are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, three of them unvaccinated and eight vaccinated. One of the 11 is on a ventilator.

Also, 57 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, raising the total to 7,587 cases since March 26, 2020. All 57 cases were identified in the community: A total of 56 were identified on Feb. 13 and one on Feb. 9. Six of the new cases were identified on Rota. The vaccination statuses of these 57 cases are pending verification.

Aside from the news release announcing the CNMI's latest COVID-19-related fatality, CHC did not disclose more details of the case, per its standard practice.

In Guam, the territory's 308th COVID-19-related fatality was a 72-year-old female, fully vaccinated without a booster shot, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Feb. 11, 2022.

The JIC statement quoted Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero as saying: "With each tragic loss we are reminded of the life that was cut short and the families who are left to grieve. Jeff, Josh, and I grieve with them. We must not become numb to reading about losing members of our community to this invisible threat, especially when we have the resources to prevent it. I urge everyone to get tested when sick, talk to their doctors about available treatment if they tested positive for COVID-19, and get vaccinated and boosted when eligible."

Of the 7,587 total cases identified in the CNMI, as of Feb. 13, 2022, there have been 5,715 recoveries; 1,848 active cases; and 24 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 78 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered in the CNMI on Feb. 14, 2022; of the eligible population, 54.4% has received an additional dose.

Meanwhile, a total of 277 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Feb. 13: 23 via Community-Based Testing; 243 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and 11 at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

OVER

From Page 1

Currently we have over 50 to 60 inmates taken out of the Department of Corrections so as not to infect the other inmates and we continue to disinfect the facility to ensure everyone's health and safety," he said.

Guerrero further stated that DOC was sanitized about 30 days prior to the recent removal of inmates due to the last spike in COVID-19 cases within the facility.

Saipan Tribune later that day tried to ask DOC Commissioner Wally Villagomez for a statement on the new batch of COVID-19 positive inmates but he declined to give one.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Warren Villagomez, Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair, he said the inmates had to be placed at the Mariana Resort in Marpi instead of having them sequestered at Mango Resort, similar to the previous batch of COVID-19 positive inmates.

He explained that aside from Mango Resort not having the capacity to accommodate this new batch of inmates, Marpi is also a better fit for the safety of the community.

"Mariana Resort is the best possible decision for the safety and well-being of the community, and to also ensure that security is not compromised because the number of COVID-19 positive inmates is higher than what can be accommodated in Mango Resort," he said.

As a result of the move, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., in tandem with the COVID-19 Task Force, has moved all scheduled COVID-19 tests that were to be conducted at Mariana Resort to the COVID-19 treatment site in Koblerville.

NMI gov't paid $121,219 attorneys' fees for Torres, 12 witnesses in JGO hearings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far, the CNMI government has paid a total of $121,219 in attorneys' fees to five of six lawyers/law firms, including a Washington, D.C.-based law firm, that served as counsel for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and 12 other government witnesses who were called to testify in an investigation into Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

According to a record from the Department of Finance obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, the lawyers/law firms that got paid are the Garber Group law firm, Anthony Aguon, Viola Alepuyo, and the law firms of Matthew T. Gregory, and Banes, Horey, and Berman.

Janet H. King, who was the counsel for Police Sgt. Joey R. Cruz, Torres' chief of security, has yet to be paid. Finance list did not indicate her attorney's fee.

The amounts only reflect the totals as of last Monday and could still go up as the issue proceeds at the Senate during the impeachment trial.

The Office of the Attorney General approved the witnesses' hiring of private lawyers for the hearings, which was held by the House of Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee.

The record shows that the D.C.-based Garber Group law firm received a total of $58,626 for representing Torres.

The law firm of Banes, Horey, and Berman received a total of $9,191 for representing Torres.

Aguon got a total of $28,490 for representing Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero, Bureau of Motor Vehicles director Juana Leon Guerrero, DPS Boating Safety commander Kevin Aldan, Police Maj. Bernard Santos, Police Sgt. Adrian Mendiola, Police Lt. Emery Kaipat, and police officers Jomalyn S. Gelacio, Jhaneeka Atalig, and Flora Aguon.

Alepuyo got a total of $20,174 for representing Mathilda Rosario, who is the special assistant for administration to the governor, and Frances Dela Cruz, who is the executive assistant to Torres.

The law office of Matthew T. Gregory got $4,737 as counsel for Bernie Palacios, who is the chief of finance and accounting.

The JGO Committee, chaired by Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), has pretty much concluded the hearings now that the House of Representatives had already impeached Torres. The matter has now been elevated to the Senate, which is now drafting the rules that will govern the impeachment trial.

NEARLY

From Page 1

of its own local funds for this purpose. "It comes from local funding and we get it reimbursed," he said.

He said he cannot pin down right now what the exact tally is but "what I could share with you is that overall, in the CNMI, since March of 2020, we've spent close to $18 million on disinfection services everywhere, whether it's a hotel, airport, or vaccination site," he said

"The protective measure in our COVID-19 operations is to disinfect places that are high risk. We do disinfection at the airport, down at the vaccination sites, and we also disinfect every hotel room after positive cases—and even non-positive cases—check out. We've disinfected government agencies and offices [as well]," he added.

To date, the CNMI has already received reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for earlier disinfecting jobs, he said. "For some of the earlier months during this pandemic and we still continue to submit these costs to FEMA for review and reimbursement," Guerrero stated.

He explained that although $18 million seems like a large number, you can't put a price on the safety of the CNMI community.

"I believe we can't put a price tag on the safety of our community and of our citizens. If that's what it costs, at the end of the day, all these costs are eligible reimbursement costs under FEMA's program. We will get reimbursements for all this money that we spent while also continuing to safeguard our community," he said.

The CNMI government has contracted five different disinfecting companies, including JOGO, Pacific Oriental, Safety Management Systems, among others.

"They all provide service up to a certain level. They all have disinfection programs that we've looked at and they continue to meet our needs," he stated.

COST

From Page 1

He said millions of dollars in additional direct federal assistance have been provided and continue to be provided to the state, whether it's through FEMA contractors or direct support to public health.

Guerrero said FEMA does have a team of providers and nurses on Saipan currently working at both the Alternative Care Site and Medical Care and Treatment Site at the hospital.

"Our cost of our operations to date is right around the $94-million mark. And it goes to the Alternate Care Site, quarantine, emergency operations support, testing and supplies, disinfection services in support of vaccination efforts, and other activities," he said.

Guerrero said that, aside from public assistance support from the federal government, they do have three other programs that they've been able to develop.

He said currently they have the crisis counseling program, which is under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center. He said over a million dollars has been awarded for that program to provide crisis counseling services.

Guerrero said the Lost Wages Assistance Program was a short-lived program but they are just in the final phase of closing that out in terms of grant closeout program. He said they were able to utilize roughly $5 million and a half on that program.

He said the funeral assistance program is "still an ongoing active program."

If you tested **positive** on ***any*** COVID-19 test kit, regardless of your vaccination status

- **Stay home and isolate from others for at least 5 days**
- **Wear a well-fitted mask**
- **Get some rest**
- **Stay hydrated**

You may take over-the-counter medicine as directed to relieve your symptoms.

If you have **completed your quarantine** and are looking for a completion certificate

Visit www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting for a certificate of completion. You will need to provide the following:

- **Photo ID**
- **Test result or photo of test result**
- **Contact information**

If you tested **positive** on ***any*** COVID-19 test kit, and are looking for treatment

Visit the Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center within 5 days of your test result for a referral to get medically assessed, as you may be eligible for treatment **(especially if you are considered high-risk, including history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65).**

YOU DO NOT NEED A CONFIRMED TEST RESULT FROM CHCC

REMINDER: If you are experiencing severe symptomsCOVID-19, call **911**. Severe symptoms include trouble breathing; persistent pain or pressure in the chest; new confusion; inability to wake or stay awake; pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

Live COVID-19 safe!

GET VACCINATED!

Make sure everyone in your household who qualifies for a COVID-19 vaccination gets vaccinated, or gets a booster shot.

Register for a COVID-19 vaccine at **www.vaccinatecnmi.com**, or walk in for a booster shot.

WEAR A MASK

Everyone 2 years or older who is not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in indoor public places.

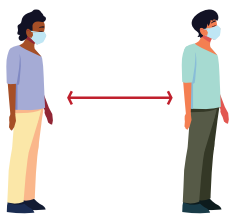
If you are fully vaccinated, to **maximize protection** and prevent possibly spreading COVID-19 to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands often with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

WATCH YOUR DISTANCE



Stay **6 feet away** from others, especially around individuals who are not in your household.

Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.

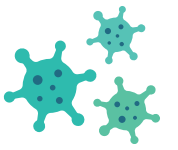
AVOID CROWDS AND POORLY VENTILATED SPACES

Being in crowded places like restaurants, bars, fitness centers, or movie theaters with other people puts you at higher risk for COVID-19.

Avoid indoor spaces that do not offer fresh air from the outdoors as much as possible.

GET TESTED IF YOU FEEL SYMPTOMS

Testing can give you information about your risk of spreading COVID-19. While you wait for your test results, you should limit your cotact with others as much as possible.



Register for free Community-Based Testing at **https://covidtesting.chcc.health**.

COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the iide of your elbow and do not spit.
- If you cough or sneeze into your mask, put on a new, clean mask as soon as possible andwash your hands.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

Clean high touch surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.

If someone is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19, disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

Check daily symptoms like fever, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell,or other symptoms of COVID-19.

Monitoring symptoms is specially important ifyou are running errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may bedificult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, see a medical provider as soon as possible

For a guidebook, visit
www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidsafe

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-018

LEASE AND DELIVERY OF MIDSIZE SUV VEHICLES FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease and delivery of midsize SUV vehicles for the CUC Administration in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-018, Lease and Delivery of Midsize SUV Vehicles for Administration"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 10, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 17, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Jenine Santos, CUC Purchasing Technician at Jenine.santos@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Volunteers clean up and repaint the Mount Carmel church's parking lot

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers announced yesterday the completion of another incredible community transformation done by volunteers from Saint Trading Co., the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, and the Saipan Maga Haga Lady Eagles under the Fraternal Eagles Club, Saipan Simbang Gabi Group, Tropex Company, and the Mount Carmel Choir. The groups joined together to adopt the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral parking lot through the GCEA Marianas Village Prid Campaign's Adopt-A-Median project.

» Adopt-A-Median project completed in two phases by seven groups

On Jan. 30, 2022, more than 25 volunteers painted the curbs, sidewalks, and parking dividers to transform the cathedral's parking lots. Earlier in the week, employees from TanHoldings prepared the parking lot for painting by water blasting the lots and sidewalks, cutting back the overgrown landscaping, and removing debris from the sidewalks and drains to improve safety for pedestrians.

"GCEA thanks every volunteer who contributed to improving the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral's parking lots and sidewalks. Volunteers were so motivated to do a great job for the parish that they expanded the initial scope of the project to include some landscaping maintenance and painting of the sidewalks along the street in front of the church," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, co-chairman of GCEA.

Nenette Delos Santos, owner of Saint Trading Co. and one of the volunteers, said she was inspired by other Public Private Partnership projects around the island and decided to take part in the Adopt-A-Median project.

"We came out here today to volunteer and help our community. This is what God would like for us to do—to be humble, do what's right, and help others when they're in need. I believe in helping out and volunteerism, which has been the key to my business' success. I encourage our parishioners to join. We are so lucky to be on an island where people are good to us and are very humble. I have gained more friends who have turned into family, who have opened their doors for when I'm in need. This is why I fully support the MVP Campaign. Our people are always there when we need them," said Delos Santos.

Marlon Regaton, the president-elect of the Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club, stated it was important for him and others from his group to volunteer to support the Fraternal Eagles Club's mission.

"Many people will be happy to adopt a median to help beautify our islands. Whether you adopt a small or big section of medians or streets, at the end of the day, it contributes to the community effort to improve the Marianas," Regaton said.

Torres added, "There are more sites throughout Rota, Tinian, and Saipan in need of transformations like this one. GCEA is so proud of this community-driven movement, and together we can make our villages better places to live."

Before and after photos can be found on GCEA's Facebook page (@cnmieconomy). All GCEA Public Private Partnership projects are made possible by the support of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's public benefit fund with the Department of Public Lands. ***(PR)***

GCEA

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel's parking lot and curbs got an overdue facelift by volunteers last Jan. 30.

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

Navigating the Human Experience

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

SAIPAN CORAL OCEAN RESORT

Yes, we are open!!!

JOIN OUR TEAM! WE ARE HIRING!

Baker/s
Requirements:
At least one year experienced as Baker. Must be able to bake and present different variety of special pastries, desserts such as cake, bread, and etc. • Assist Pastry Chef De Partie in checking completeness of all food needed, pastry area, equipment, inventory and delivery. • Ensuring pastry unit is clean, tidy and sanitized at all times. • Ensure that all completed jobs are fully checked before leaving the unit. • Work closely to the Pastry Chef De Partie and other cooks to ensure that the function runs smoothly. • May delegate duties to other baker working in their section. • Monitor to make sure dessert quality, presentation and safety standards are being adhered to. • Troubleshooting any issues arise in their pastry section. Knowledge and experienced in hotel/resort as a Baker is preferred but not required.

Cook/s
Requirements:
At least one year experienced as a Cook. Plan menus, prepare, seasons and cook all types of dishes, desserts and other food according to recipes, estimates food requirements and procures food storage. Handle food in hygienic manner and maintain food in good standards. Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment, work surface, serving area to ensure safe and sanitary food handling practices. Ensure food is stores and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of events, broilers, grills and roasters. Ensures freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items. Weigh, portion, arrange, garnish, wash and peel, cuts, measure, mix bake, roast, broil, steam food and ingredients according to the recipes or personal judgement, using various kitchen utensils and equipment. Serve food to waitress and patrons. Observe and test to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling or piercing them with utensils. Satisfy local and international customers with different variety of Cuisine which include sushi, salad, appetizers, desserts and main entrees. Knowledge and experienced in hotel/resort as a Cook is preferred but not required.

Interested applicants must be able to obtain a food handler certificate and may apply to Coral Ocean Resort (formerly Coral Ocean Golf Resort) through this method:
1. Submit/Send resume to humanresources@cogrsaipan.com or
2. Walk In applicant may pick up and submit application form at Human Resources Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:pm, except for Holidays,
3. Contact # : (670)234-7000 ext. 8131 or 8026.
3. All employment application/resume must be received no later than February 28, 2022

'Mental health services through telehealth could increase access for NMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Dr. Anne Erhard, a licensed clinical psychologist, said Monday that the ability of psychologists to deliver mental health services through telehealth could greatly increase access to care for the CNMI, particularly for those needing services on Tinian and Rota.

Speaking at the Health and Welfare Committee meeting at the House of Representatives, Erhard said telehealth is beneficial for people who may avoid accessing psychological intervention locally due to stigma or shame, and also for people who have special or complicated mental health needs and require access to specialized services.

She added that telehealth is good for those uncomfortable with seeking care from someone they may see out in the community.

Erhard talked about delivering mental health services through telehealth in support of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) legislation, House Bill 22-80.

Sablan

Erhard and her husband, Dr. Adrian Brenn, have been practicing in the CNMI for over 25 years in both the public and private sectors, as well as volunteering in disaster mental health with the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

Rep. Christina Marie E. Sablan (D-Saipan), who chairs the Health and Welfare Committee, is the author of H.B. 22-80, which proposes to have the CNMI join the PSYPACT to improve and expand access to mental health care in the Commonwealth.

Erhard noted that PSYPACT legislation has now been enacted in 28 states, including the District of Columbia, and introduced in six more.

She said PSYPACT legislation has the potential to benefit the CNMI by providing another method of accessing needed psychological services.

Erhard said the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards created PSYPACT to allow psychologists to practice interstate telehealth as well as the ability to practice for a limited period of time while physically located in a PSYPACT participating state.

PSYPACT's goal is to improve access to mental health services by providing a mechanism for the ethical and legal practice of psychology while reducing regulatory barriers to accessing care.

Erhard said that, as people understand more about mental health issues, and are willing to reach out for help, the number of those seeking the services of psychologists continues to increase.

Unfortunately, she said, like many other health professionals, psychologists are not always easily or quickly available in underserved areas, like the CNMI. "Higher demand for services in the CNMI has resulted in long waiting lists, which does not serve our community well," she said.

Erhard said PSYPACT would allow the CNMI to access a larger pool of psychologists, including those who deal with specialized populations or provide specialized treatment.

She said PSYPACT would also be helpful in maintaining continuity of care when patients travel out of the CNMI for school, medical care, or job change, and for patients such as family of military personnel who move frequently.

She noted that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, psychologists were already using telehealth as a means of responding to the demand for services, especially in rural areas.

Erhard said because of the pandemic, the use of telehealth has accelerated as face-to-face services have been limited.

"For many conditions, treatments are as effective via telehealth as when patients come to the psychologist's office," she said.

Erhard said PSYPACT provides protection to the public by certifying that psychologists have met acceptable standards of practice. Importantly, she said, it provides compact states with a way to address disciplinary issues that occur across state lines.

February is declared Parent Leadership Month

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, joined by Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian T. Sablan, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse Palacios, Rev. Fr. Isaac M. Ayuyu, and local dignitaries, proclaim the month of February as Parent Leadership Month at the Tanapag Youth Center.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has declared the month of February as Parent Leadership Month as part of the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of Parents Anonymous Inc., the premier family strengthening outlet that is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Torres was joined yesterday morning by Division of Youth Services administrator Vivian T. Sablan, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse Palacios, Rev. Fr. Isaac M. Ayuyu, and local officials during the proclamation signing at the Tanapag Youth Center.

This year's theme is: *"Strengthening Families through Parent Leadership."* In Refaluwasch, it is: *"Amamawal Familiasch sangi Ammwelil lil me saam"* and in Chamorro, it is: *"Nina Metgut Familia siha ginen I Fuetsan Manai'na."*

The proclamation also recalls the first time Parent Leadership Month was initiated by Parents Anonymous Inc. in the CNMI in February 2004, recognizing the "extraordinary courage and tenacity of parents who have reached out to make improvements in their families and communities."

The proclamation document states that meaningful parent leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a *"Parent Voice"* to help shape the direction families, programs and communities take.

"Parents Anonymous Inc. of the Northern Mariana Islands recognize[s] the vital importance of supporting and assisting public and private organizations, policymakers, and other key stakeholders to effectively implement policies and build stronger, safer communities for children," it said. "Parent leadership is successfully achieved when parents receive the support and training in addition to shared responsibility, expertise and leadership in the planning, implementation, assessment and evaluation of policies, practices and programs affecting families and communities."

CNMI Parents Anonymous Inc. under the Division of Youth Services continue to be accredited for their outstanding leadership in building and empowering parent leaders and professionals to strengthen and support families and communities through evidence-based Parents Anonymous Inc. services.

In fiscal year 2021, the Division of Youth Services Family and Youth Enhancement Program served 581 parents for Parenting Classes, Parents Anonymous Inc. groups, and other events and 352 Children & Youth Program. The 2021 Parent Leadership Awareness Month served 53 parent nominees: 41 parent nominees for Saipan and four parent nominees for Tinian and eight parent nominees for Rota. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: RFP22-OGM-42200070

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 03, 2022 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"COMPREHENSIVE GRANT MANAGEMENT TRAINING FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS **March 1, 2022**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED. QUESTIONS/AMSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL BIDDERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.

Accountant – SDA-2022-01
Saipan, CNMI

Accountant, Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School Saipan, CNMI

Prepares annual budget for board approval. Overall in-charge on the accounting and administrative operation of the company. Report to the board of directors regarding the finances of the company on a monthly basis. Prepare, examine and analyze accounting records, financial statements, or other financial report to assess accuracy, completeness and in conformity to reporting and procedural US GAAP standards. Analyze business operations, trends, cost, revenue, financial commitments, and obligation to project future revenues and expenses. Compute the taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting or other requirements. Review and Analyze monthly billing for all students. Responsible in the monitoring and supervision of Registrar and Office/PR assistant in the daily business operation of the school.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, 12 months experience in general accounting in school setting. Able to supervise accounting and administrative staff.

Salary: $ 15.76 per hour.

Workplace: CHALAN KIYA ROAD, CHALAN KIYA VILLAGE, SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL CAMPUS Saipan, CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to SDA SCHOOL, PO BOX 501063, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to office@saipansdaschool.org Job Number – SDA-2022-01

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-22-2047
Marianas Visitors Authority Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)-Airlines

Submission /Closing Date: **February 18, 2022** **Time: 10:00AM ChST**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after February 04, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-22-2047 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY TRIP-AIRLINES"** in the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION TO BID
SILVER 2009 TOYOTA YARIS

Slight damage from Typhoon Yutu | 4 cylinder | 4-door manual windows and locks | AM/FM radio and CD Player | 47,229 miles automatic | power steering and brakes | last serviced in 2019

SOLD "AS IS" AND " WHERE IS"

Visit our website at www.developcnmi.com for bid information and photos.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 33

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Congress must unite behind China competitiveness bill

Under the shadow of growing tensions with Beijing, the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill that would help the United States remain economically competitive with China. It will now need to be reconciled with similar legislation that passed the Senate last year.

Congress must not allow partisan squabbles to scuttle this vital proposal.

Republicans, who supported the U.S. Senate's United States Innovation and Competition Act, have so far turned their back on the House version, known as the America COMPETES Act, saying the bill includes unacceptable provisions related to labor, foreign policy and climate change.

While differences exist—and their merits are worth debating—both bills promise to fund the critical need to address supply-chain vulnerabilities and increase computer chip production in the U.S. They also include a major investment in ensuring America's place as the leader in scientific research and innovation.

These similarities should be the focus, said U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., who heads the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Both bills call for a $52 billion investment in the semiconductor industry, about $160 billion for research and development agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, as well as funding to reduce STEM workforce gaps.

"This would be the largest five-year commitment to public R&D in our nation's history," Cantwell said. "We need it for the job growth. We need it to stay competitive."

The legislation would also create some manufacturing jobs in the U.S., but the benefit to American workers may be strongest in improved protection from global market volatility, said Jeffrey Kucik, an associate professor at the University of Arizona.

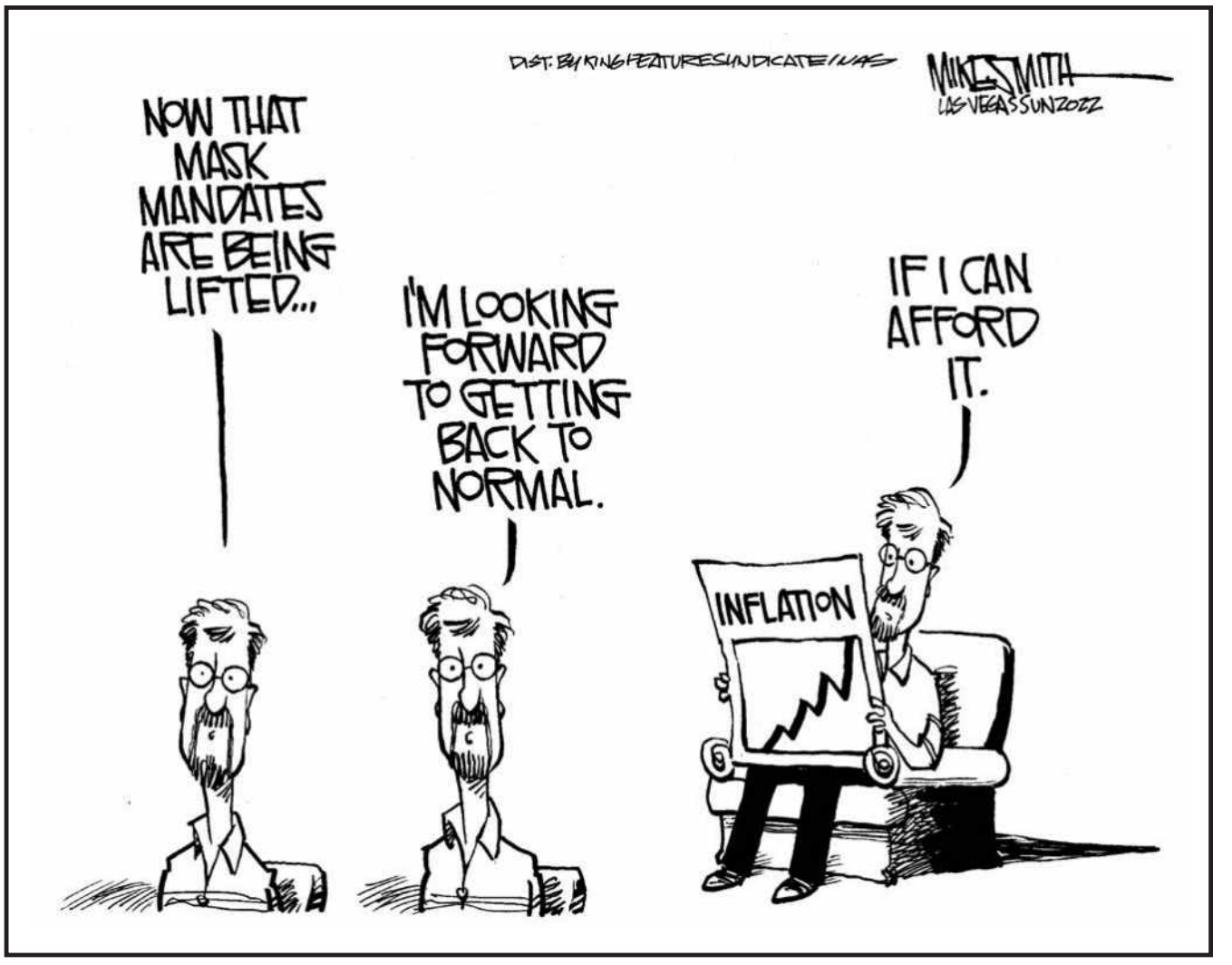
"It's about insulating the domestic market from unpredictable global forces," he said. "Whether that's the pandemic, or the Great Recession, or shocks associated with the escalation of the U.S.-China trade war."

For their part, Chinese officials have repeatedly labeled these legislative efforts as the product of a "Cold War mentality."

It was ironic, then, to see President Xi Jinping of China and Russian President Vladimir Putin warmly meet on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics in Beijing. Even more so was their joint statement, which sent a message of cooperation between the two countries not seen since Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong.

Their statement, which includes support for each other's foreign policies, underlines the precarious situation surrounding existential threats to Ukraine and Taiwan. It

See CONGRESS on Next Page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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2022
NOW THAT MASK MANDATES ARE BEING LIFTED...
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO NORMAL.
IF I CAN AFFORD IT.
INFLATION

Health insurance, not health care, needs reform

By SHELDON H. JACOBSON
Chicago Tribune

Sheldon H. Jacobson is a professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

A family member became seriously ill last year. After some initial tests, a malignancy was diagnosed. Surgery was scheduled, followed by chemotherapy. Everything proceeded mostly as planned, with no medical hiccups. We are both well-educated, with backgrounds in medicine, health economics and risk analysis, which should have prepared us to maneuver the requirements of our health insurance provider and ensure that copays and pre-authorizations were handled as necessary.

We were gravely mistaken.

We chose the providers, surgeon and facility so that they were all in-network. The problem is that some of these facilities use radiologists, pathologists and anesthesiologists who choose to be out-of-network.

Why is this done? These specialists receive higher payments when they are out-of-network than if they become in-network, where the reimbursement rates are lower. This means that patients are then liable for any charges for such services, even though they have no choice of such providers.

In Illinois, a law protects patients from such circumstances. Insurance policies must have what is termed a facility-based provider benefit, which means that if a patient is cared for in an in-network hospital and out-of-network radiologists, pathologists or anesthesiologists provide services, these services are considered in-network, and mostly billed at the providers' designated rates.

Even with the facility-based provider benefit, insurance companies may add rules and limitations on such coverage that they do not communicate. For example, they may require that the pathology be billed on the same date as the in-network procedures. So if a pathologist bills for their work one day after the care was provided at an in-network facility, the insurance company may deny the charge, effectively moving the pathologist to bill you directly.

Another example occurs when a pathologist must use a specified number of units for the tissue analysis, yet the insurance company places an arbitrary limit on how many units can be billed per day. If this limit is exceeded, the insurance company denies all charges rather than paying up to their arbitrary limit.

The other problem with these unwritten rules is that the patient is responsible for figuring them out and communicating them to physicians' billing offices. Otherwise, billing offices assume that the charges are denied, without determining why, and bill the patient directly.

Effective in 2022, the No Surprise Act provides blanket protection against such billing practices nationwide, offering patients financial protections that move beyond facility-based provider benefits.

The lessons learned from my family member's illness is that there are a triumvirate of players that are out of sync with each other.

First, there are the in-network medical providers who deliver care and want to be paid for their services. Second, there are the insurance companies who have a vested interest to provide the minimum payments for services and keep a veil of uncertainty around their rules and policies.

Finally, there are the patients who work to stay in-network, yet find themselves liable for legitimate charges that are coverable by their health insurance policy, but require finesse and communication to facilitate their payment.

The best one can say about health insurance is that it is great when you do not need to use it. But once a major medical event demands extensive and complicated care and services, patients become innocent bystanders, stuck between the medical care provided and the insurance company that should be paying for it.

What is the solution?

A system that creates a seamless network of providers covered by all insurance companies. Without such a simple set of transparent rules for insurance companies and providers, patients will continue to fall through the cracks, with uncovered medical expenses dropping to them.

Whether this means a single-payer system or multiple payers abiding by a uniform set of rules, changes are needed.

The current system is unsustainable. COVID-19 has further exposed the problems. Health care providers are overwhelmed by more patients than they have resources to treat.

My family member's illness opened our eyes to the state of health care in our nation. Both patients and physicians deserve to be respected and treated fairly by the health insurance industry, so patients can receive the medical care they need and physicians can remain in charge of the medical care that they deliver.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Yes, guns do kill people

Can you think of a promotional slogan that exceeds this one in persuasive power, especially for people who are already inclined to accept its implications: "Guns don't kill people, people kill people"?

The slogan's effectiveness resides in its second clause. Of course people kill people. But that obvious fact beguiles us to accept the sketchy logic of the first clause and misleads us in two ways:

First, we discount the killing power of modern weapons, which have a deadly potency that the Founding Fathers could not have imagined when they wrote the Second Amendment.

Thus when defenders of unlimited access to firearms say "Guns don't kill people," they fold semi-automatic AR-15s in with all the other tools that can be used for murder, such as knives, axes, baseball bats, hammers, crossbows or, as one right-wing commentator put it, even a butter knife.

But let's face it: If you're really serious about killing, there's nothing like a gun.

Second, the slogan invites us to disregard the agency of the gun itself. Sure, people kill people. But often without the gun the killing would never happen.

If you doubt this, consider the case of Adil Dghoughi. Born in Morocco, he immigrated to the U.S. with his family in 2012, looking for a better life. He graduated from a university in Rhode Island with a master's degree in business administration and finance. He moved to Austin in 2020, hoping to find a job as a financial analyst.

On Oct. 11 he attended a football watch party with his new girlfriend. Later, in the wee hours of the morning, he was driving to her house, in the tiny town of Martindale, 35 miles south of Austin.

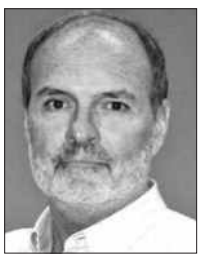
His family believes that a few miles from his destination Adil got lost and pulled into a driveway to check directions on his phone. The driveway belonged to Terry Turner, who happened to glance out a window and, noticing Adil's car, retrieved a handgun from his nightstand and ran out to confront the driver.

By this time Adil was accelerating in reverse, but Turner ran to the driver's side, hit the window twice with his gun, then fired a bullet that passed through Adil's upraised hand and into his head. Adil was unarmed. Turner called 911: "I just killed a guy."

Last week a grand jury indicted Turner for first-degree murder. He faces a penalty of as much as life in prison.

Whatever you might think about the necessity of keeping a firearm at your bedside for personal protection, you can't get past this fact: Had there been no gun involved in this regrettable episode, Adil Dghoughi would be alive, and Terry Turner, at age 65, would not be facing spending the rest of his life in prison.

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Not convinced? What about Curtis Reeves?

In 2014, Reeves, a retired Tampa police officer, went to the movies. He had the misfortune of sitting behind Chad Oulson. Oulson, 43, insisted on using his cellphone during the previews. Reeves objected. Angry words were exchanged. Popcorn was thrown. Reeves drew his concealed weapon and killed Oulson, an act that he immediately realized was "stupid."

Last week, Reeves, 79, went on trial for second-degree murder, facing a sentence of life in prison. I wonder how much he regrets having taken a pistol to the movies. Without it, he or Oulson might have ended up with a busted lip, but Oulson would probably still be alive and Reeves would be enjoying his retirement.

With cancer, I'll take all the luck I can get

By DEBBY TEPPER GLICK
THE BALTIMORE SUN

I am not a superstitious person. I believe in science and cold hard facts. But how could I not take it as a sign of good luck when a pressed four-leaf clear clover fell out of an old dictionary I found at a used book store?

I thought about the significance of that four-leaf clover as I packed my to-go bag for an upcoming appointment at The Hillman Cancer Center's Radiology Department. This will be scan No. 14.

Upon arrival I'll change into a flimsy gown and be escorted into a room that is always cold. I'll lay down on the table with my arms positioned above my head. The machine will whirl and hum while moving me in and out of a cavernous tunnel, as a monotone, recorded voice instructs me to "Breathe in. Hold your breath. Breathe."

It's over in minutes but still gives me enough time to think of the luck, both good and bad, I've experienced in the past couple of years.

It started with an ache in my ribs three years ago that wouldn't go away. That was CAT scan No. 1. The doctor assured me my ribs were fine but there was a suspicious spot on one of my lungs. I should get it checked out.

That was the beginning.

This wasn't my first rodeo. Twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was younger then and a little more gung ho. When well-meaning friends and family told me I would beat cancer because of my positive attitude, I wanted to believe them. I donned my pink t-shirts, attended rallies and marched with my comrades in arms.

That was then. Now when I hear anyone talking about the benefits of positivity I want to scream. Who has the energy to be brave and "fight the good fight" when you're trying not to throw up? Does it mean you are flunking cancer if all you want to do is crawl under the blankets?

It makes me cringe when I read an obit stating the dearly departed has died after a long battle with cancer, or a short battle with cancer, or a courageous battle with cancer. Can we stop talking about "the battle" and recognize the fact that cancer doesn't care about anyone's attitude? It does not care if you are a fighter or a coward, a good person or a miserable excuse of a human being.

Cancer is gonna do what cancer is gonna do. That's its job.

I don't mean to sound cynical. Nor am I asserting cancer resistant to treatment. Far from it. New and better therapies are here, with more progress coming down the pipeline. But as marvelous as modern medicine is, it can't rival being dealt a winning hand when you need it the most. Luck is cancer's kryptonite.

My mother used to tell me, mazel, the Hebrew word for luck, is everything. She was right. But the residents of Cancerland know, especially those of us with more advanced stages of the disease, that good luck can go south in a New York minute. We are all just one scan away from bad news.

The New Oxford American Dictionary defines luck as "success or failure apparently brought by chance rather than through one's own actions."

I have my own definition. It involves, by chance, getting stage 4 lung cancer at a time when research in the field is blossoming with new treatments available. By chance, living near a renowned cancer center with the world's best oncologists, nurses and technicians. By chance, having good health insurance. By chance, marrying the right guy and having supportive family and friends.

Shortly after I was diagnosed, my cousin's wife, Kathy, wrote me a heartfelt letter of support. As an afterthought she enclosed a penny that had fallen out of her desk drawer. I've held onto that penny all this time.

A lucky penny? Perhaps. A four-leaf clover foreshadowing a little more longevity? I hope so. It might not be grounded in science, but as I approach scan No. 14, I'll look for serendipity wherever I can find it.

Breathe in. Hold your breath. Breathe.

Debby Tepper Glick can be reached at watchestwo@gmail.com.

It was never about the science

It was never about the science.

When the first COVID-19 mandates were issued in hopes of turning back a mysterious pandemic, there wasn't enough science or data available to know for certain what would work.

It was all best guesses and speculation, and a desperate instinct to do something in the face of a lethal public health threat unseen in our lifetimes.

COVID had its way with us no matter what protective orders were put in place. But few policymakers were willing to risk abandoning their edicts, even when the virus defied them.

Suddenly, though, keeping mask mandates and other restrictive measures in place has become riskier to the politicians who ordered them than the potential for another COVID surge.

Indoor masking requirements are coming off even in states run by Democrats. California, New York, New Jersey and Delaware are among the Blue states that are shedding masks this week.

What changed?

COVID hasn't gone away. Nationwide, roughly 250,000 new cases are reported every day, and 2,400 deaths. While daily cases have dropped over the past 30 days, daily deaths increased.

Yet the masks are going even in states where they've been akin to a cloak of righteousness. Why?

Because it's an election year, and masks mandates are not polling well, particularly among parents of schoolchildren. Governors notice what happened in Michigan, where Gov. Gretchen Whitmer backed off the active management of the pandemic last fall and has watched her approval numbers climb.

Omicron has tipped the balance. The highly contagious variant has blown past masks, as well as vaccines, to infect even those who are most vigilant in following the protective protocols.

Last month, the CDC said the cloth and paper masks most of us have strapped across our faces are not very effective in screening omicron particles. If it's not an N-95 mask or the equivalent, it's protection is uncertain.

And yet wearing the flimsier versions allows us to go to school, fly on airplanes and fully participate in society. It makes no sense.

We have also surrendered to the reality we can't hide from COVID. Lockdowns and school closures didn't stop the spread and were largely abandoned. Now the masks we've been wearing for two years are going on the trash heaps.

By NOLAN FINLEY
The Detroit News

Even vaccines have proven not to be the answer we had hoped. Eighty percent of the nation, age 5 and up, has had at least one dose of the vaccine, and yet the hospitals are filled with COVID patients.

Forcing compliance with ineffective measures does, however, give us someone to blame for the persistence of the pandemic—the virus is spreading because certain groups of people aren't wearing masks, or they aren't social distancing, or they aren't getting the shots, etc.

Omicron has demonstrated that no matter what we do, the virus will persist until it tires of tormenting us.

For two years we've put up with limits on our freedom in hopes of beating COVID. But it's in our national DNA to resist arbitrary dictates that don't produce results.

People are plain fed up. And when politicians realize the consequences of that, political science is the only science that matters.

CONGRESS

From Page 8

also underlines the need for Congress to act.

These bills are not about viewing the U.S. relationship with China as a Cold War zero-sum game. They are smart efforts to ensure America remains competitive. However, in working together, Republicans and Democrats can send their own message of unity in the face of global challenges.

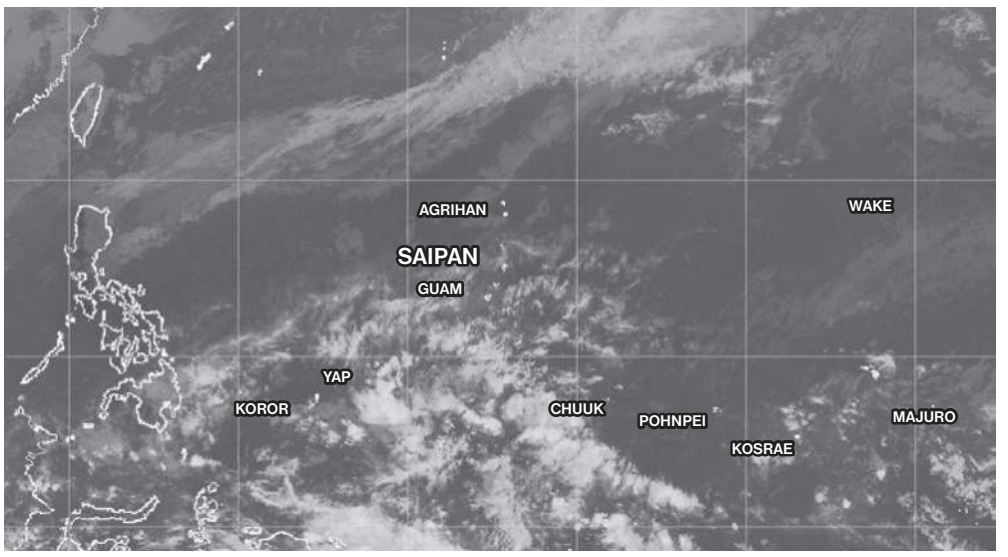
(c) 2022 *The Seattle Times*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
84º 75º	84º 76	85º 76º	86º 75º	86º 75º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:38 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows sprinkles moving through the Guam waters, with more substantial showers to the south. These showers are on the northern fringe of a disturbance to our south. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 6 to 8 feet, shielded from the north swell. Meanwhile, the USGS buoy indicates combined seas of 4 to 5 feet, sheltered from the east swell. Together, they describe open ocean combined seas of 7 to 9 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	29 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:41 AM	18:21 PM
Thursday	06:40 AM	18:21 PM
Friday	06:40 AM	18:21 PM
Saturday	06:39 AM	18:21 PM
Sunday	06:39 AM	18:22 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	06:21 PM	18:00 PM
Thursday	-	07:03 PM	18:53 PM
Friday	-	07:43 PM	19:45 PM
Saturday	-	08:22 PM	20:37 PM
Sunday	-	09:00 PM	21:30 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	24 / 17 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	0 / -10 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	18 / 16 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 20 °F
London	PM Showers/Wind	15 / 7 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	20 / 7 °F
Manila	Isolated Thunderstorms	31 / 24°F
Melbourne	Cloudy	28 / 17 °F
Miami	Few Showers/Wind	25 / 23 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	9 / 7 °F
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	5 / 0 °F
Paris	Shower	15 / 10 °F
Busan	Mostly Sunny	4 / -6 °F
Rome	Partly Cloudy	15 / 4 °F
Salem	Partly Cloudy	22 / 14 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	18 / 10 °F
Seoul	Sunny	-3 / -11 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	11 / 0 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	5 / -2 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
01:41 AM	Low Tide	-0.34
08:40 AM	High Tide	1.66
2:04 PM	Low Tide	0.07
7:03 PM	High Tide	1.71

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Tinian hosts Cope North 22 medical evacuation exercise

As part of Cope North 2022 multinational exercise, the U.S. Air Force, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Royal Australian Air Force conduct an aeromedical evacuation exercise on Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands last Feb. 8, 2022. The medical evacuation exercise tested the medical team's ability to triage, treat and stabilize patients before they are evacuated to a higher echelon of care.

Cope North fosters an optimal environment to exchange information and refine shared tactics, techniques and procedures to better integrate multilateral defense capabilities and enhance interoperability in support of regional security. ***(PR)***

A simulated patient awaits transport.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

Two U.S. airmen stand outside of a medical tent as part of an aeromedical evacuation exercise on Tinian, Feb. 8, 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

A simulated patient awaits to be triaged as part of an aeromedical evacuation exercise last Feb. 8, 2022, on Tinian.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

U.S. Air Force airmen, Japan Air Self-Defense Force members and Royal Australian Air Force personnel discuss medical evacuation procedures during exercise Cope North 22 on Tinian, Feb. 8, 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

U.S. Air Force airmen, Japan Air Self-Defense Force members, and Royal Australian Air Force personnel carry a simulated patient.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

Royal Australian Air Force personnel wait to transfer simulated patients onto a RAAF C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron as part of an aeromedical evacuation exercise during Cope North 22 at Northern Mariana Islands, Tinian, Feb. 8, 2022.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

Royal Australian Air Force personnel and Japan Air Self-Defense Force members transport a simulated patient onto a RAAF C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron as part of an aeromedical evacuation exercise.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

Royal Australian Air Force personnel and Japan Air Self-Defense Force members transport a simulated patient onto a RAAF C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron taxis a runway prior to take off.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron takes off.

U.S. AIR FORCE/AIRMAN 1ST CLASS YOSSELIN PERLA

A Royal Australian Air Force C-27J Spartan assigned to No. 35 Squadron taxis prior to take off.

Asia

FREE coffee for early risers at Island Café & Restaurant

BEA CABRERA

Island Cafe & Restaurant is open Monday to Sunday and welcomes private functions for any occasion.

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Island Café & Restaurant along Middle Road in Garapan is giving away free coffee until the end of February to anyone who will visit the café before 10:30am, as a way to thank customers a year after their opening.

Kyung Hee Park said there have been many improvements at the café since then. "We have worked hard to improve customer service and I can truly say that we provide fast service without compromising the quality of our food items. Part of our development plans is that I would like the community think that we are not just a food place but also a venue for family, friends and officemates to have a good time, share the joy in their daily lives, and have good memories after they leave the restaurant," she said.

"We plan to maintain the current food items on the menu. It's a simple menu, but I want to try harder to maintain the best quality. I want to pursue the best and unchanged quality in portion and taste that our customers love," she added.

Park and her husband have been doing business on Saipan for quite a while now but Island Café & Restaurant is their first food business venture. There were some difficulties at the start, Park said, but they were able to get over them.

New Business

"At first, it was awkward. …The unfamiliar language and culture was a bit of a hurdle because it was our first business aimed at locals. As we went along and focused on providing food and service that appeal to the taste of the community, I became friends with many customers who I now treat as family." She said.

"Appearance, culture, and language may be different, but the relationships I built with customers that are now family and friends cannot be determined by value. I am happy that all our hard work and effort show and the customers appreciate it," she added.

If you are craving for breakfast meals, Korean, Japanese and Filipino dishes, pasta dishes, Island Café and Restaurant has it all, making it a one-stop restaurant. "When customers ask for our beef bulgogi, carbonara, fried chicken, bibimbap or crispy pata and say this is the best on Saipan, it is the most rewarding feeling. …We want to be known as a family restaurant and based on what we hear from our customers, we have become that," Park said.

"Island Cafe & Restaurant will maintain an atmosphere that is comfortable and clean. Aside from the space at the restaurant, we have private rooms for people who wants privacy or have celebrations of their own like anniversaries, baptisms, and business meetings," Park said.

Island Café and Restaurant is open from 8am to 9:30pm Monday to Friday and 7:30am to 9:30pm Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (670) 233-0190 and (670) 483-8825.

BEA CABRERA

Island Cafe & Restaurant is a favorite place for family, friends, students, and business people to meet. The clean and spacious atmosphere is always inviting.

World

Plane with 8 aboard crashes off North Carolina; one body found

MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. (AP)—A small plane carrying eight people crashed into the ocean off North Carolina's Outer Banks and left behind multiple debris fields where crews searched for the missing passengers, the Coast Guard said.

One body has so far been recovered and identified, Carteret County Sheriff Asa Buck told reporters Monday afternoon. He declined to release that person's name or details about the other people who were on board, including their ages, "out of respect for the families."

"We have no indication that anyone survived the crash," the sheriff said.

Search crews are still looking for the main body of the plane but have identified three debris fields, which had been moving farther off shore into the Atlantic Ocean, Buck said.

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Matthew J. Baer told reporters that multiple vessels from various agencies are continuing the search. In a tweet Monday night, the Coast Guard said a cutter would remain on the scene overnight.

"We've got an all-hands-on-deck event going on here," Baer said. "And we want the citizens of Carteret County and eastern North Carolina to know that your Coast Guard is out there doing our absolute best alongside our partners."

Most of the family members of the plane's passengers live in Carteret, a coastal county of nearly 70,000 people, Buck said. The county includes communities such as Emerald Isle and Atlantic Beach as well as the Cape Lookout National Seashore and its iconic Outer Banks lighthouse, which has a black-and-white diamond pattern.

"We've been in very close contact with the family members," the sheriff said.

The Coast Guard said in a news release that it received a report of a possible downed aircraft about 4 miles (6.4 kilometers) east of Drum Inlet from a Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point air traffic controller Sunday. The air traffic controller reported that the aircraft was behaving erratically on radar, then disappeared from the screen.

Accounting firm: Trump financial statements aren't reliable

NEW YORK (AP)—The accounting firm that prepared former President Donald Trump's annual financial statements says the documents, used to secure lucrative loans and burnish Trump's image as a wealthy businessman, "should no longer be relied upon" after New York's attorney general said they regularly misstated the value of assets.

In a letter to the Trump Organization's lawyer Feb. 9, Mazars USA LLP advised the company to inform anyone who had gotten the documents not to use them when assessing the financial health of the company and the ex-president. The firm also said it was cutting ties with Trump, its highest-profile client.

Mazars' letter, made public in a court filing Monday, came just weeks after New York Attorney General Letitia James said her civil investigation uncovered evidence that Trump and his company used "fraudulent or misleading" valuations of its golf clubs, skyscrapers and other properties to get loans and tax benefits.

"While we have not concluded that the various financial statements, as a whole, contain material discrepancies, based upon the totality of the circumstances, we believe our advice to you to no longer rely upon those financial statements is appropriate," Mazars General Counsel William J. Kelly wrote to his Trump Organization counterpart, Alan Garten.

Kelly told Garten that Mazars could no longer work with Trump because of a conflict of interest and urged him to find another tax preparer. Kelly said several Trump-related tax returns still needed to be finished, including those of the former president and first lady.

The Trump Organization said in a statement it was "disappointed that Mazars has chosen to part ways," but took Kelly's letter as a positive because the accounting firm hadn't found material discrepancies in Trump's financial statements.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police arrest man suspected of stabbing 11 in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Police in Albuquerque arrested a man suspected of stabbing 11 people as he rode a bicycle around the city over the weekend, leaving two victims critically injured, authorities said. The suspect was identified as Tobias Gutierrez, a 42-year-old man with a criminal history that includes felony offenses that range from burglary to battery and possession of a controlled substance. He was booked into jail on charges of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon, police in New Mexico's largest city said in a statement Monday. Booking documents said he was homeless. The stabbings appeared to have been committed at random within hours along Central Avenue, one of the city's main thoroughfares. One of the crime scenes included a homeless encampment and another was near a smoke shop where the suspect asked a victim for money and yelled obscenities before swinging a knife, according to a criminal complaint.

Woman killed by man who followed her into NYC apartment

NEW YORK (AP)—A woman was stabbed to death inside her lower Manhattan apartment by a man who followed her from the street into her building, authorities said. Christina Yuna Lee, 35, was found fatally wounded in her bathtub at about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, police said. The suspected killer was taken into custody after he at first tried to flee down a fire escape and then barricaded himself inside the apartment, a police spokesperson said. Police announced Monday that Assamad Nash, 25, was arrested on charges of murder and burglary. It wasn't clear if he had an attorney who could comment on the charges. Officials including New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams denounced Lee's killing as the latest in a string of unprovoked attacks on people of Asian descent.

Asia

S. Korean COVID deaths rise, hope rests on high booster rate

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea reported its highest number of COVID-19 deaths in a month Tuesday as U.S. health authorities advised Americans to avoid traveling to the country grappling with a fast-developing omicron surge.

The 61 deaths reported by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on Tuesday was the highest daily tally since the 74 reported on Jan. 19, when the country was emerging from an outbreak driven by the delta variant.

While omicron so far seems less likely to cause serious illness or death, the greater scale of the outbreak is fueling concerns that hospitalizations and fatalities could spike in coming weeks.

The 57,177 new cases reported by the KDCA was another one-day record and more than a 12-fold increase from the levels seen in mid-January, when omicron became the dominant strain.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated its travel notice for South Korea to level 4, the highest risk, advising Americans to avoid travel to the country or to make sure they are fully vaccinated if traveling is necessary.

Park Hyang, a senior South Korean Health Ministry official, said the country's hospital resources remain stable, with less than 27% of intensive care units designated for COVID-19 currently being occupied.

Officials have expressed cautious hope the country's high vaccination rate – with nearly 58% of a population of more than 51 million having received booster shots – would prevent hospital systems from buckling. They plan to start offering fourth vaccination shots to people at nursing homes and other long-term care settings later this month.

"While unvaccinated people account for only 6% of the population 12 years or older, these people have accounted for 62% of serious cases and 66.5% of the deaths over the past eight weeks," Park said during a briefing.

Pakistan to let India deliver wheat to Afghanistan

AP

Pakistan laborers unload sacks of onion imported from neighboring India at Pakistani border Wagah near Lahore Pakistan, on May 14, 2013.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan is allowing nuclear rival India to deliver tons of wheat to Afghans struggling through intensifying food shortages, two Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Under a deal with New Delhi, dozens of trucks from Afghanistan will be allowed to collect wheat from India by way of Pakistan's Wagha border near the city of Lahore, beginning Feb. 21. The trucks filled with wheat will then head back to Afghanistan's Jalalabad city via Pakistan's Torkham border the next day, the officials said.

They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media on the record.

The arrangement comes more than three months after India announced it would deliver 50,000 metric tons of wheat and life-saving medicine to Afghanistan.

Pakistan said at the time it would allow the Indian aid to pass through its territory en route to Afghanistan, but New Delhi could not finalize modalities until last week, said the officials.

Pakistan and India have a history of bitter relations. Ties between them were further strained after deadly attacks in India's section of the disputed territory of Kashmir three years ago. More than 40 Indian soldiers were killed. New Delhi blamed Pakistan-based militants for the attack in Indian-controlled Kashmir, a charge Pakistan denied, demanding evidence.

Pakistan suspended trade with India in 2019 after New Delhi stripped the Indian-controlled section of Kashmir of its statehood and special constitutional status. Since then, normal diplomatic and trade ties between them have not resumed.

Myanmar won't attend ASEAN ministers meeting

BANGKOK (AP)—Myanmar will not participate in this week's meetings in Cambodia of foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, spurning an invitation to send a non-political representative instead of its chief diplomat, its government said Monday.

Cambodia, the current ASEAN chair, said earlier this month that members of the regional group had failed to reach a consensus on inviting Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin to its meetings on Thursday and Friday in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh.

Wunna Maung Lwin was appointed foreign minister after the military seized power in Myanmar last year, ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The decision to restrict Myanmar's participation reflected a disagreement over Myanmar's lack of cooperation in implementing measures agreed upon by the 10-member group last year to help ease that country's violent political crisis following the army's takeover.

The head of Myanmar's military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, was not invited to last October's virtual meeting of ASEAN leaders because of the disagreement. That rebuke was issued shortly after Myanmar declined to let an ASEAN special envoy meet with Suu Kyi, who has been in detention since the military took power.

World

US asks Honduras to arrest, extradite former president

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The United States has asked Honduras to arrest former President Juan Orlando Hernández for his eventual extradition to the U.S., officials confirmed Monday.

National Police and soldiers surrounded the neighborhood around Hernández's home Monday night.

Honduras' foreign affairs ministry initially said via Twitter that it had notified the country's Supreme Court of Justice that the U.S. Embassy had formally requested the arrest of a Honduran politician for the purposes of extradition.

The ministry did not identify the politician. But Honduras' current vice president, Salvador Nasralla, confirmed to The Associated Press that the request names Hernández.

Hernández

Later, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice called an urgent session of the full court for Tuesday morning to choose a judge to consider the extradition request from the United States.

Nicole Navas, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Department of Justice, declined to comment. The U.S. State Department referred requests for comment to the Justice Department.

CNN en Español first reported that the politician was Hernández, showing the communication from the ministry to the court naming Hernández.

Hernández's attorney, Hermes Ramírez, accused authorities of being unfair to the former president. He said Hernández was inside the Tegucigalpa residence.

"At this time the secretary of security is violating the rule of law by wanting to execute an arrest order violating the procedure that is established by law," the lawyer told local media. "We leave clear the abuse that my client ex-President Juan Orlando Hernández is the subject of."

Kremlin sees a diplomatic path on Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP)—The Kremlin signaled Monday it is ready to keep talking with the West about security grievances that led to the current Ukraine crisis, offering hope that Russia might not invade its beleaguered neighbor within days as the U.S. and European allies increasingly fear.

Questions remain about Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions, however. And countries are evacuating diplomats and on alert for possible imminent war amid the worst East-West tensions since the Cold War.

On a last-ditch diplomatic trip, Germany's chancellor said there are "no sensible reasons" for the buildup of more than 130,000 Russian troops on Ukraine's borders to the north, south and east, and he urged more dialogue.

Britain's prime minister said Europe is "on the edge of a precipice"—but added, "there is still time for President Putin to step back." France's foreign minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, told French television that "all elements" were in place for a strong Russian offensive, but "nothing shows today" that Putin has decided to launch one.

Despite warnings from Washington, London and elsewhere that Russian troops could move on Ukraine as soon as Wednesday, Monday's meeting between Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov suggested otherwise.

UN: Horn of Africa drought kills over 1.5 million livestock

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Drought in the Horn of Africa has killed more than 1.5 million livestock and drastically cut cereal production, "and we are most definitely now sitting on the brink of catastrophe," a senior official for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said Monday.

Rein Paulsen, FAO's director of emergencies and resilience who returned from the region Friday, said a "very small window" exists for taking urgent action, and a key is whether the region's long rains between March and May are good -- and whether the agency gets the $130 million it needs until June.

The short rains in the region, which includes parts of Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, were supposed to come between October and December but "were extremely poor," he said. "And this represents the third consecutive failed rainy season with lower average rans, all of which has a severe impact on vulnerable households."

The result of the drought meant that overall cereal production for the last rainy season in southern Somalia was estimated to be 58% lower than the long-term average, Paulsen said. In agricultural areas in marginal coastal zones in southeastern parts of Kenya, "we're looking at crop production estimated to be 70% below average," he said.

In addition, most places for water that have usually been resilient to climate variability have dried up in Kenya, he said during a virtual news conference from Rome.

AP

Animal carcasses are seen at Gabi'as village, northeast of the town of Gode, in the Shabelle zone of the Somali region of Ethiopia Friday, Jan. 21, 2022.

Good Housekeeping

HANDOUT/TNS
Calacatta marble is used on a large surface kitchen island.

Tile on trend

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

You're looking to retile your kitchen or bathroom and are at a loss as to which color tile to choose. As a tile choice can often make or break a room, the dilemma is understandable.

What is on trend? One trend and color palette we have spotted repeatedly recently does seem pervasive: the colors white and gray.

While this may not surprise you and may even seem to be a bit bland, there are some advantages—namely its timeless appeal and neutrality. We have spotted this color palette from kitchen countertops to backsplashes and bathrooms. Here are some ways to make the right selection for your next renovation project.

1. Select the slab in person when it comes to large surfaces such as a countertop or overscale backsplash. In many instances, a customer can visit a stone yard in person to make their own selection.

2. Be aware of background color and shades. Not all whites and grays blend together, so be sure to place tiles side by side to ensure color matching.

3. Consider using tile on larger surfaces to create an interesting wall feature.

4. Mix patterns. It is not unusual to have one pattern on the wall and another on a floor.

5. Consider mosaic and glass tiles. If you choose this route, be sure to hire an installer.

6. Select a custom grout color. This is often an overlooked design element.

7. Choose rectangular tiles as opposed to those that are square for a more modern look.

8. Consider using tile to introduce both texture and color into a space.

9. Look for interesting ways to lay tile in a pattern.

10. Consider pairing tile that is dissimilar but of the same color palette to add interest and depth.

Fresh tuna, sweet potatoes an easy one-pan meal

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Let your oven and sheet pan help you make this quick meal. Fresh tuna, sweet potatoes and broccoli all cook together on the sheet pan. I like using a sheet pan, because it only uses one pan and makes cleanup a breeze.

A secret to the success of this meal is to make sure your oven is at temperature before adding the sheet pan. Also, if like your tuna very rare, cut down the cooking time.

Helpful Hints:

■ You can use swordfish or cod fillets instead of tuna.

■ You can use butternut squash cubes instead of sweet potatoes.

Countdown:

■ Preheat oven.

■ Microwave the sweet potatoes and Brussels sprouts.

■ Place all ingredients on the sheet pan and roast.

■ While sheet pan is in the oven, mix together the olive oil and lemon dressing.

Shopping List:

To buy: 2 6-ounce tuna steaks, 3/4 pound Brussels sprouts, 1/2 pound sweet potatoes, 1 small bottle sesame seeds, 1 lemon, 1 bottle dried oregano.

Staples: olive oil, salt and freshly ground black pepper.

LINDA GASSENHEIMER/TNS
Sheet pan tuna, sweet potatoes and Brussels sprouts.

Sheet Pan Tuna and Sweet Potatoes and Brussels Sprouts

3/4 pound Brussels sprouts, rinsed and cut in half (about 3 cups)

1/2 pound sweet potato cubes, peeled and cut into 1/4- to 1/2-inch cubes (about 2 cups)

3 tablespoons olive oil, divided use

1 tablespoon sesame seeds

2 6-ounce tuna steaks

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

1/2 tablespoon lemon juice

1 teaspoon dried oregano

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil.

Combine sweet potato cubes and Brussels sprouts in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high 5 minutes. Remove and toss with 1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil. Spread out on one side of the baking sheet and sprinkle sesame seeds over the top. Add tuna steaks to the other side of the baking sheet. Sprinkle salt and pepper to taste over the tuna and vegetables. Place the baking sheet on the middle shelf of the oven. Roast 5 minutes. Remove the sheet from the oven and turn the tuna over and stir the vegetables. Return the sheet to the oven and roast 5 minutes. A meat thermometer inserted into the tuna should read 125 degrees for medium rare. If you like your tuna very rare, cut down the cooking time to around 4 minutes per side. A meat thermometer should read 100 degrees. While sheet pan is in the oven, mix remaining 1 1/2 tablespoons oil with lemon juice and oregano. Divide the tuna and vegetables between 2 dinner plates. Spoon olive oil and lemon juice sauce over the tuna steaks.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
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■ Store plastic wrap in the refrigerator, or even the freezer, to keep it from sticking to itself.

■ "Take your medication tablets on a spoonful of your favorite yogurt! Place the pills on top of yogurt and they slide down. Follow with a second spoonful and smile."

-- A Reader in Pennsylvania

■ Do you have a screw loose ... in your eyeglasses? This is an easy fix. Paint the screw with a dab of clear nail polish and quickly re-screw. It works like glue. Dab the top of the screw for a little extra insurance.

"I purchased a roll of reflective tape to mark our basement stairs. It reflects the light from the open doorway at the top of the stairs, and I can turn the downstairs lights off before heading up. I had some left over, so I put a strip on my dog's collar. When I let him out at night, I can shine a flashlight and spot him instantly, since the tape is more visible in the night."

-- V.R. in Pennsylvania

■ If you're leaving your home for a few days, make sure you don't turn off the heater altogether. Set it at a low 55 degrees F and open up the cabinets that have pipes exposed. This way, air will circulate, and it won't get too cold to allow the pipes to burst. Have a neighbor turn your faucets to a trickle if below-freezing weather is expected.

■ Wrap the metal collar of your paintbrush with masking tape before painting. Then you can peel it off and there's no stuck-on paint.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Life & Style

2,500-year-old terracotta gets Valentine Day's love in Italy

ROME (AP)—A pair of terracotta lovers caught in a tender embrace for 2,500 years are getting some Valentine's Day TLC from Italian cultural officials.

One of the most famous lovers' statues in the art world, the reclining spouses fashioned out of terracotta are being offered high-tech protection from the threat of earthquakes and lesser tremors from passing traffic outside, officials said Monday as they unveiled the 18-month project.

The Sarcophagus of the Spouses, made by an unknown artisan, is actually an urn constructed to hold the remains of the deceased. It is a top attraction at the National Etruscan Museum at Villa Giulia.

AP

The terracotta Sarcophagus of the Spouses is displayed in Rome's National Etruscan Museum, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022.

"The sarcophagus is threatened on a daily basis by the vibrations produced by the tramway and the railroad Rome-Viterbo" said Valentino Nizzo, the museum's director.

The 18-month project includes the construction of an anti-seismic platform for the sarcophagus that will help reduce vibrations that threaten it.

The Sarcophagus, dating to the 6th century B.C., was discovered in 1881 in a necropolis in Cerveteri, a former Etruscan settlement near Rome. It was reconstructed from approximately 400 terracotta fragments.

Whoopi Goldberg returns to 'The View' after suspension

NEW YORK (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg returned to "The View" on Monday after a two-week suspension for remarks about the Holocaust, expressing surprise at some people who had reached out to her during her absence.

Goldberg had been criticized for comments Jan. 31 on the daytime talk show where she said the Holocaust was not about race, but rather about man's inhumanity to others. She apologized, but ABC News President Kim Godwin told her to sit out two weeks.

"I want to thank everybody who reached out while I was away," Goldberg said at the opening of Monday's show. "I'm telling you, people reached out from places that made me go, 'wait, wait, what? Really? OK. I listened to what everybody was saying and I was grateful."

She did not specify any of the people who reached out to her.

Jewish leaders had criticized her initial statement, noting that Nazi leader Adolf Hitler had referred to Jews as an inferior race. Goldberg apologized online the night she made the remark, and on the next day's show.

"Yes, I am back," Goldberg said as she took the stage with her co-hosts on Monday.

"There is something kind of marvelous about being on a show like this because we are 'The View' and this is what we do," she said. "Sometimes we don't do it as elegantly as we could. But it's five minutes to get in information about topics and that's what we try to do everyday."

She said the hosts will continue to have tough conversations.

New fresh prince Jabari Banks is ready to conquer 'Bel-Air'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jabari Banks knew he was close to getting the starring role of Will in "Bel-Air," the dramatic take of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," but his confidence started to wane when he was asked to do one more Zoom audition with show director Morgan Cooper.

"I'm like, 'I don't know what he wants to see, but I'm gonna give him everything I got,' recalled the 23-year-old in a recent interview. "I was like, 'I'm gonna put everything into this audition.'"

Banks found a quiet place—a friend's closet—and logged in, only to see a very familiar face staring back at him, Will Smith.

"I didn't think it was real," Banks said. "He's like, 'I want to congratulate you. You got the part of Will in 'Bel-Air.'"

And then in true Smith exuberance, the superstar directed Banks to invite those with him to join the Zoom. "He was like, 'Where is everybody? Go get them,' said Banks. So a lot of my friends met Will."

Banks

And that's how Banks became the (new) prince of Bel-Air. The series is streaming on Peacock with a new episode on Thursdays.

Cooper says searching for the actor to play the new Will was not an easy task, and that he was looking "for a unicorn."

"Hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of auditions poured in. We needed a guy who had the swagger, the charisma, but also the pure acting chops, who uses his eyes," he said. "Jabari Banks is such a star and he shines so bright."

The parallels between Smith and Banks seem tailor-made for Hollywood. Like Smith, Banks is from west Philadelphia. He's also a musician working on his own EP, which he says is a mix of R&B, hip-hop and alternative genres, and plans to release it later this year. He also loves fashion and "The Fresh Prince" was a trend-setting show.

Banks says he's taking this huge opportunity "one day at a time," and cites an anecdote from Smith's autobiography, "Will," about his father assigning him and his brother to build a wall brick by brick.

"I've been following that motto and going about my day to day like that," he said.

"Bel-Air" was conceived by Cooper, a filmmaker in Kansas City who taught himself to shoot film on a camera bought at Best Buy. He grew up loving "The Fresh Prince" and believed the premise of the show could still work today—but also reflect the times.

Husband of three decades still supports first wife

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my husband for more than 30 years. We have no kids together, but he has three adult children from a previous marriage. All of them are in their 30s. He and his ex had a bad breakup, and she has never given up on him coming back to her.

In my opinion, he has strung her along. He buys her the moon and pretends our marriage doesn't exist for the "sake of seeing the kids." We used to be close, but since the pandemic I have learned he has been going to "their house" every day before he goes to work. He pays her mortgage and does everything there for her. I pay our house bills because he needs to "support her and the kids."

They have grown super close now, and recently had a grandchild. He is too involved with her. He takes her everywhere she wants, and when I get upset or angry, he tells me I'm a selfish, childless b-word and if I had kids I would understand.

I love him, but I have reached the point where I have no self-esteem. I have asked him more than once why he doesn't go back to her. He tells me I am insecure and paranoid. Abby, I am a smart, successful woman, but I am afraid to give up what we had. I am also afraid of being alone. Am I overreacting about his closeness with her? What do I do?

BEATEN DOWN AND FED UP

DEAR BEATEN DOWN: The man you married is emotionally abusive, selfish and dishonest. I don't know how long this scenario has been playing out, but it's as though he never really divorced his first wife. Has he been "visiting the kids" all this time, or did it start when the COVID quarantines began?

Start NOW to rebuild your sense of self-esteem by talking with a licensed mental health professional. Once you are stronger you will be in a better position to decide what you want to do. If you reread your letter, you will notice a glaring omission. Not once did you mention anything positive he does for YOU. There are worse things than being alone, and what you have described is close to it.

***

DEAR ABBY: Our 14-year-old granddaughter came out as a boy four months ago. The situation has been terrifying because he had thought about suicide. He was hospitalized and now sees a therapist and psychologist and is taking anxiety meds.

This has been a trying time for us as well. I love my grandchild but I'm having a very hard time with this. So is my husband. I don't know how to tell my sisters and their husbands about this. One set is pretty understanding; the other set is extremely right-wing and over-the-top conservative. We want to accept our grandchild as who he is identifying as, but we are still bewildered. Thank you for any suggestions you might have for us.

THROWN IN TEXAS

DEAR THROWN: I don't think you should rush to share this news with your sisters and their husbands. The announcement should come from your grandchild when he is ready. As to how you and your husband should "handle" it, the organization PFLAG has recently come out with a free publication titled, "Supporting Your LGBTQ+ Grandchild." It's a quick and easy read, and you may find the information it contains helpful. Find it at pflag.org or by calling 202-467-8180.

DEAR ABBY

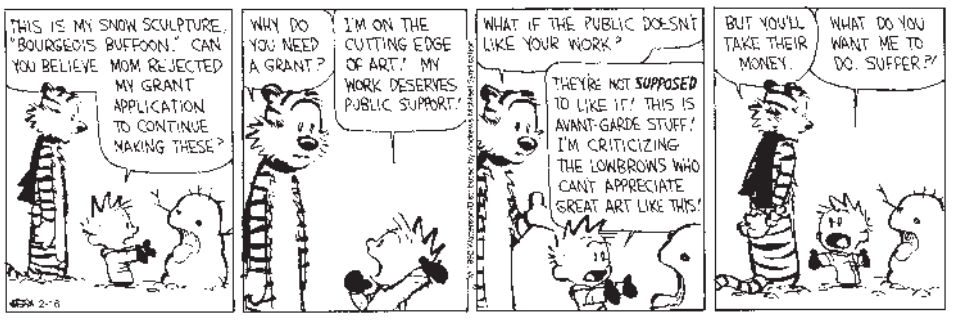
By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

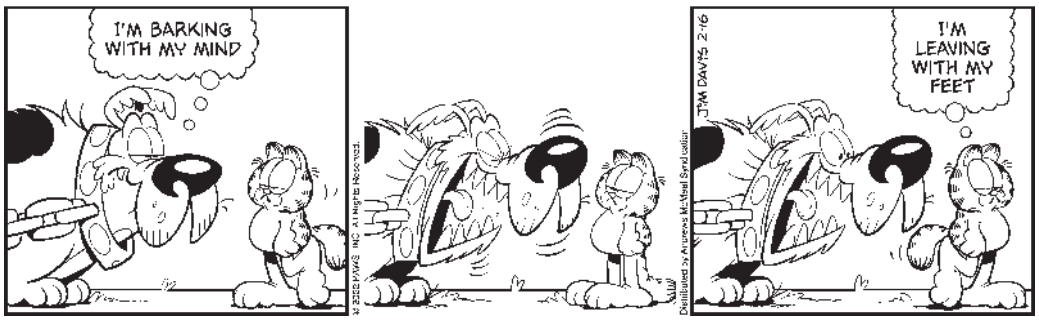
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THIS IS MY SNOW SCULPTURE, "BOURGEOIS BUFFOON." CAN YOU BELIEVE MOM REJECTED MY GRANT APPLICATION TO CONTINUE MAKING THESE?
WHY DO YOU NEED A GRANT?
I'M ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF ART! MY WORK DESERVES PUBLIC SUPPORT!
WHAT IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T LIKE YOUR WORK?
THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LIKE IT! THIS IS AVANT-GARDE STUFF! I'M CRITICIZING THE LOWBROWS WHO CAN'T APPRECIATE GREAT ART LIKE THIS!
BUT YOU'LL TAKE THEIR MONEY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, SUFFER?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



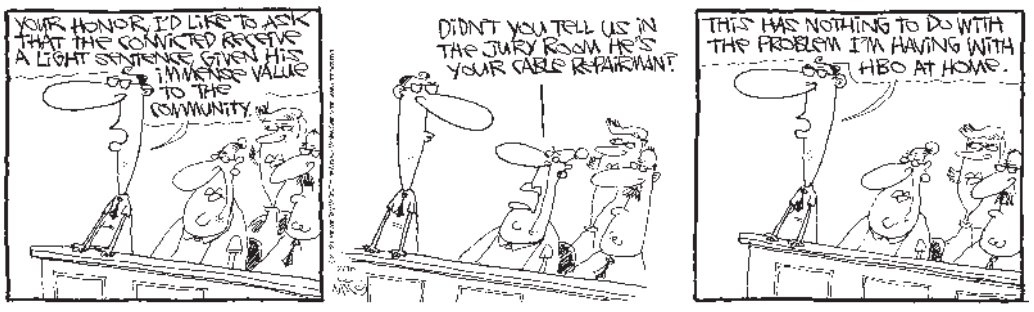
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WANNA GO SLEDDING?
HECK YES!
I GOT NEW SNOW BOOTS LAST WEEK.
THEY'VE BEEN CALLING OUT TO ME.
LIKE HOW?
LIKE "GET UP AND DO SOMETHING, COUCH BOY!" THEY'RE KIND OF MEAN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOUR HONOR, I'D LIKE TO ASK THAT THE CONVICTED RECEIVE A LIGHT SENTENCE GIVEN HIS IMMENSE VALUE TO THE COMMUNITY.
DIDN'T YOU TELL US IN THE JURY ROOM HE'S YOUR CABLE REPAIRMAN?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM I'M HAVING WITH HBO AT HOME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Austen heroine
5 Task
8 Transcript stats
12 Swedish auto
13 Coach Parseghian
14 Expel
15 Sucker
17 Nick and Nora's pooch
18 Physicist Tesla
19 Very popular
21 Aries
22 Monumental
23 Zing
26 Reunion gp.
28 Diarist Nin
31 Make — for it (flee)
33 Co. with a peacock logo
35 Clench
36 Caravan stops
38 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
40 Aunt, in Mexico
41 "Funny!"
43 Under the weather
45 Ocean bottoms
47 Rum cocktail
51 Singer India.—
52 Resistance
54 Puts on
55 Rock producer Brian
56 Days gone by
57 Admin. aide
58 Dijon denial
59 Cruising

DOWN
1 "NFL Live" airer
2 Hawaiian island
3 Mardi Gras wear
4 Loathe
5 Fossil discovery of 1891
6 Tramcar contents
7 Dance studio rail
8 Needling
9 Vendor's vehicle
10 Regarding
11 Doc's "Now!"
16 Norwegian saint
20 Clean air org.
23 Kung — chicken
24 Historic time
25 Corkboard stickers
27 CEO's degree, maybe
29 Sundial numeral
30 Hot tub
32 Least messy
34 Bright red
37 "Keep it down!"
39 Mediocre
42 Skiers' mecca
44 Neighbor of Chad
45 Arp's art
46 Love god
48 New Mexico resort
49 Farmland unit
50 Furniture brand
53 Dos preceder

Solution time: 23 mins.

O	A	K	S	■	S	F	C	■	I	I	T	S
A	M	A	S	■	C	O	O	■	O	G	R	E
H	O	M	E	L	A	N	D	■	M	E	E	T
U	S	A	■	A	M	S	■	P	E	R	K	S
■	■	■	H	I	P	■	D	E	A	■	■	■
A	C	⁻	O	R	■	F	I	G	L	E	A	F
D	O	R	M	■	E	G	G	■	O	T	O	E
S	Q	U	E	L	C	H	■	S	N	A	K	E
■	■	■	G	O	O	■	A	L	E	■	■	■
P	E	A	R	L	■	B	R	C	■	T	D	S
S	I	L	O	■	H	O	M	E	F	R	E	E
S	N	O	W	■	A	N	O	■	B	O	C	A
I	E	E	N	■	D	E	H	■	I	D	O	L

Yesterday's answer 2-16

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58				59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: The Weeknd, 32; Elizabeth Olsen, 33; Ice-T, 64; Le-Var Burton, 65.

Happy Birthday: Bounce ideas around in your head for a while. Consider the pros and cons, and come up with the best approach to life, love and happiness. A look at the past will help you cultivate an ironclad plan that will ensure your safety and your ability to reach your destination. A thoughtful, kind attitude will harvest good returns. Your numbers are 5, 11, 21, 29, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pull yourself together and target what you must accomplish. Show resilience, regardless of the distractions you encounter. An innovative approach to what's important to you will help you surpass your expectations. Be open to suggestions, but let your intuition lead the way. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take a low-key position when working in groups, and pay attention to detail. You want to make sure that what you present to others far exceeds their expectations. A sound plan coupled with a unique presentation will be hard to resist. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Put more emphasis on home and family. If your surroundings are easy to navigate and your relationships copacetic, it will make it easier to manage your responsibilities. Keep things simple and within reason, and you'll be able to fulfill your promises. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't take everything others say to heart. Take on a project that requires ingenuity and creativity. Discuss your intentions with someone you love, and the input you receive will give you the push you need to move forward. Self-improvement is encouraged. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Focus on whatever brings the highest returns financially, professionally and contractually. Take a leap of faith, and enforce change that alters your course. Lock in plans to do something you want to pursue. Follow the path that excites you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Share your feelings, concerns and plans with someone you love. Personal growth will lead to a better understanding of life, love and happiness. Shoot for the stars, but don't lose sight of what's important. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Fancy footwork is required if you want to make a domestic home. Controlling your environment, overhead and future will be easy if you let others think they have a say. Persuasive tactics and incentives will help you get your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Deal with red-tape issues. Having a clear path forward will make it easier to reach your goal. Think outside the box, and you'll develop a foolproof plan that is well-received by others. A positive change is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put everything in place, and leave no room for unnecessary adjustments. Establish what you want to do, and refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Listen to the facts, and stay grounded when others try to interfere or offer risky alternatives. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let depression consume you. Shared expenses are not a good idea, don't invest in someone else's future. Focus on what will make you happy, encourage success. Put your time and effort to self-improvement and getting ahead. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Consider what's possible and forge ahead. Don't wait for someone to step in and take over. Do your own thing, and take credit for what you accomplish. Be a leader, not a follower. Build self-confidence and gain respect. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Rely on the information you receive firsthand. Trust in your instincts, common sense and experience to know what to take on and what to leave alone. Navigate your way through the pitfalls and mistakes others make with intelligence and bravado. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fine-tuned, unique and unpredictable. You are intriguing and diehard.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				1				
			6		3			
		2				9		
		8		7		1		
	2	7				8	6	
1	5	6		9		3	2	7
		1				5		
	9	4	5		8	7	3	
2	8			3			4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	6	9	2	7	8	3	4	5
3	2	7	9	5	4	6	8	1
4	8	5	1	6	3	7	9	2
9	5	1	6	3	2	4	7	8
2	3	6	4	8	7	1	5	9
7	4	8	5	1	9	2	3	6
5	7	2	8	4	1	9	6	3
8	1	3	7	9	6	5	2	4
6	9	4	3	2	5	8	1	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SAFETY OPTIONS Solution: 7 letters

R	O	I	N	T	M	E	N	T	P	A	R	W	S	E
G	O	E	A	R	P	L	U	G	S	A	I	E	C	I
L	I	R	A	N	A	E	L	C	R	P	D	N	A	S
A	D	L	R	P	L	E	H	E	E	G	L	S	S	V
S	A	E	L	I	R	E	T	S	T	N	T	I	T	E
S	R	D	B	Ⓔ	M	A	H	L	D	I	L	N	N	S
E	N	O	H	Ⓟ	W	M	E	R	X	N	A	R	S	T
S	M	C	E	Ⓐ	O	B	A	E	R	R	D	E	E	N
L	S	T	L	Ⓣ	T	U	L	S	D	A	E	D	K	O
A	E	O	M	A	G	S	T	Y	K	W	P	D	A	I
C	L	R	E	H	E	H	H	C	I	F	F	A	R	T
I	G	S	T	V	A	I	R	B	A	G	S	L	B	C
D	G	U	O	S	L	E	E	H	W	T	R	E	L	A
E	O	L	K	C	O	L	A	N	Y	A	R	D	S	R
M	G	O	W	N	S	D	I	S	I	N	F	E	C	T

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Airbags, Alarm, Alert, Brakes, Cast, Clean, Disinfect, Doctor, Earplugs, Exit, Glasses, Gloves, Goggles, Gowns, Health, Helmet, Help, Hydrant, Ice, Ladder, Lanyard, Lock, Mask, Medical, Mirror, Mobile, Mouthguard, Ointment, Pads, Pedal, Phone, Radio, Seat Belt, Shield, Splint, Sterile, Tape, Traction, Traffic, Vest, Warning, Water, Wheels, Wipes, Wrap

Yesterday's Answer: Pitti Palace

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 47 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Simons scores 31 as Trail Blazers beat Bucks, minus Giannis

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Anfernee Simons scored 31 points and the Portland Trail Blazers capitalized on Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence, beating the Milwaukee Bucks 122-107 on Monday night for their third straight victory.

Simons has averaged 30 points and has shot 18 of 39 from 3-point range during Portland's winning streak.

Antetokounmpo didn't play for the Bucks due to a sore left ankle. Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said before the game he believes it's a short-term issue.

Josh Hart scored 27 points and Jusuf Nurkic had 23 points and 16 rebounds as the Trail Blazers continued to thrive after reshaping their roster at the trade deadline. Portland outrebounded Milwaukee 58-43.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers' Josh Hart (11) gestures after making a basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, in Milwaukee.

Bulls 120, Spurs 109

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 19 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter and Chicago beat San Antonio for its fourth straight victory.

It was DeRozan's seventh consecutive game with at least 30 points, extending his career high. The All-Star is the first player with such a streak for the Bulls since Michael Jordan during the 1996-97 season.

Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 16 rebounds for Chicago, which lost 131-122 at San Antonio on Jan. 28. Coby White made five 3-pointers and finished with 24 points.

The Bulls played without All-Star Zach LaVine, who missed his second straight game due to periodic soreness in his surgically repaired left knee. Coach Billy Donovan said LaVine also will miss Wednesday night's matchup with Sacramento.

San Antonio had won three of four. Lonnie Walker IV scored 21 points for the Spurs, and All-Star Dejounte Murray had 19 points and 11 assists.

Nets 109, Kings 85

In New York, Seth Curry scored 23 points in his Brooklyn debut and the Nets downed Sacramento to snap their 11-game losing streak.

Curry was one of five players who finished in double figures for Brooklyn. Bruce Brown set season highs with 19 points, six assists and five steals. LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 19 points, Cam Thomas added 14 off the bench and Andre Drummond contributed 11.

De'Aaron Fox had 26 points for the Kings.

The new-look Nets debuted two of the three players acquired from Philadelphia in last Thursday's star-laden deal with the 76ers. Curry and Drummond started at off guard and center, respectively. Ben Simmons, the centerpiece of the trade for the Nets, sat on the bench, wearing a sweater and pants.

Jazz 135, Rockets 101

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Bojan Bogdanovic added 22 and Rudy Gobert returned for streaking Utah in a win over Houston.

Before he was ejected for picking up his second technical foul with 6:33 to play, Gobert had 14 points and seven rebounds. The Jazz were plus-19 in his 22 minutes on the court.

Jordan Clarkson scored 16 and Hassan Whiteside contributed 11 points and 14 rebounds in Utah's third wire-to-wire victory of the season.

The Jazz have won six straight, and Whiteside has grabbed 49 rebounds in the last three games, all in a reserve role.

Eric Gordon, Jae'Sean Tate and Kevin Porter Jr. each scored 14 for the Rockets, who have lost five in a row.

Clippers 119, Warriors 104

In Los Angeles, Terance Mann scored a season-high 25 points, including 14 in the decisive third quarter, and Los Angeles defeated Golden State.

Mann was 6 of 7 from the field in the third as the Clippers outscored the Warriors 33-19. The third-year guard also had seven rebounds and six assists.

All of the Clippers' starters scored in double figures. Reggie Jackson added 19 points and Ivica Zubac had 18 points and eight rebounds.

Stephen Curry scored 33 for the Warriors. The All-Star guard hit his first six shots and had 26 points in the first half on 9-of-11 shooting before going cold in the second. Curry was 2 of 7 from the field after halftime.

Pelicans 120, Raptors 90

In New Orleans, CJ McCollum scored 23 points and New Orleans shot a season-best 58.4% to defeat Toronto.

Brandon Ingram had 10 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists, leaving him two short of his first triple-double when he was pulled after playing 29 minutes because the game was not close — and because New Orleans plays again Tuesday night.

Jonas Valanciunas had 18 points and nine rebounds in 28 minutes, and reserve big man Jackson Hayes added 14 points for the Pelicans, who never trailed.

The Pelicans had a season-high 36 assists on 45 field goals and tied a season best with 16 3-pointers on 36 attempts (44.4%).

Fred VanVleet scored 20 points and Pascal Siakam added 18 for the Raptors, who have lost two straight following an eight-game winning streak.

Wizards 103, Pistons 94

In Washington, Kyle Kuzma scored 17 of his 23 points in the third quarter and Deni Avdija had 12 points and a career-high 15 rebounds as Washington handed Detroit its eighth straight loss.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added 16 points for the Wizards.

Saddiq Bey led the Pistons (12-45) with 24 points. Cade Cunningham, who leads NBA rookies in scoring, was in foul trouble much of the game and finished with 12.

Washington (26-30) won for the third time in 12 games. Detroit, held scoreless for more than four minutes late in the fourth quarter, is 4-25 on the road.

Thunder 127, Knicks 123, OT

In New York, Josh Giddey had a triple-double of 28 points, 12 assists and 11 rebounds, and Oklahoma City rallied from an 11-point deficit in the second half to beat New York in overtime.

Giddey, the sixth overall pick in the 2021 draft, shot 11 for 22 from the field for the Thunder, who snapped a five-game losing streak. Tre Mann scored 30 points and Darius Bazley added 23.

Julius Randle had a triple-double of 30 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists for the struggling Knicks, who have lost nine of 11.

Nuggets 121, Magic 111

In Denver, Nikola Jokic scored 26 points to lead six Denver players in double figures as the Nuggets topped Orlando.

Jeff Green and Will Barton added 17 points apiece and Bryn Forbes had 16 for the Nuggets, who have won four of five since losing three in a row. Bones Hyland had 14 points and Aaron Gordon scored 10.

Franz Wagner had 26 points to lead the Magic, who have lost three straight — all by double digits. Wendell Carter Jr. scored 25.

Allen named All-Star replacement for Harden

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jarrett Allen went from being snubbed to a sub.

Passed over in fan voting and overlooked by coaches as a reserve, Cleveland's center will replace an injured James Harden at this year's All-Star Game in Cleveland and give the Cavaliers two All-Stars for the first time since 2018.

Allen's strong second season with the Cavs has helped push them among the top teams in the Eastern Conference. The 6-foot-10 Allen was rewarded Monday by being chosen to take Harden's place by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.

Allen will join teammate Darius Garland for this year's event at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse. Both will play for Team LeBron (James), which will be coached by Phoenix's Monty Williams.

Harden is dealing with a left hamstring issue that is delaying his debut with the Philadelphia 76ers. Harden, who was chosen by coaches as an All-Star reserve, was traded last week by the Brooklyn Nets in a blockbuster deal for Ben Simmons.

This is the first All-Star selection for Allen, who is averaging 16.2 points, a career-high 11.1 rebounds and 1.4 blocked shots in 49 games. The 23-year-old is also second in the league in field-goal percentage (66.5%).

Shortly after learning Harden would miss the game, the Cavs began re-campaigning for Allen, who was passed over last week when Silver named Charlotte's LaMelo Ball as Kevin Durant's replacement.

"He should have been named an All-Star reserve from the jump," said teammate Kevin Love, a five-time All-Star said of Allen. "I told him, that doesn't really matter how you get there. He's been so consistent for us.

"He's been a leader in that respect, brings it every single night. Posts a double-double, shoots extremely well from the floor. He's a guy that wants to get better, a guy that wants to lead. It's such a skill to play hard every single night and J.A. does that. He produces for us time and time again."

Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff was equally effusive.

"I'm not knocking anyone else and obviously I'm biased, but I don't know of anybody who deserves it more," Bickerstaff said before Allen was selected. "If you talk about valuing the things that we're supposed to value as a league and highlighting that, it's impact on winning and being high-character people and teammates.

"Because of Jarrett and what he's done for this team, we are where we are right now in a competitive Eastern Conference. He's not out highlighting himself. All he worries about is helping this basketball team win and contributes at a high level. There is no other replacement in my mind."

LaVine to meet with doctors about left knee soreness

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Bulls guard Zach LaVine is slated to visit with doctors in Los Angeles on Tuesday, looking for more answers about periodic soreness in his surgically repaired left knee.

LaVine missed his second straight game Monday night when the Bulls defeated the San Antonio Spurs 120-109, and coach Billy Donovan said LaVine also will miss Wednesday night's matchup with Sacramento.

No decision has been made about LaVine's availability for Sunday's NBA All-Star Game in Cleveland.

"He swells after games sometimes, and sometimes he doesn't," Donovan said. "So I think getting to the bottom of some of that stuff, you know, they've obviously done imaging. He is cleared to play. There is discomfort there. He doesn't feel great. It really kind of just depends."

LaVine is a key player for the resurgent Bulls, who have won four in a row to run their record to 37-21 — second in the Eastern Conference behind Miami (37-20). The 6-foot-5 LaVine, who turns 26 on March 10, is averaging 24.6 points in 47 games this season.

He had 12 points on 5-for-14 shooting during Friday night's 134-122 victory over Minnesota in his last game.

"I think he would like to feel better more consistently than he has for a stretch of time," Donovan said. "I think with the way he was feeling after the Minnesota game, I think that's kind of when it started where he wanted to maybe take it a step further, just to really have somebody look at him."

NFL never stops making news, even after Super Bowl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NFL never stops making news.

Even after the Super Bowl, pro football doesn't fade from view. Next up is the scouting combine in two weeks, followed by free agency in mid-March and key owners' meetings at the end of that month. Then the draft in late April, this year in Las Vegas, where even the fountains at Bellagio will play a role.

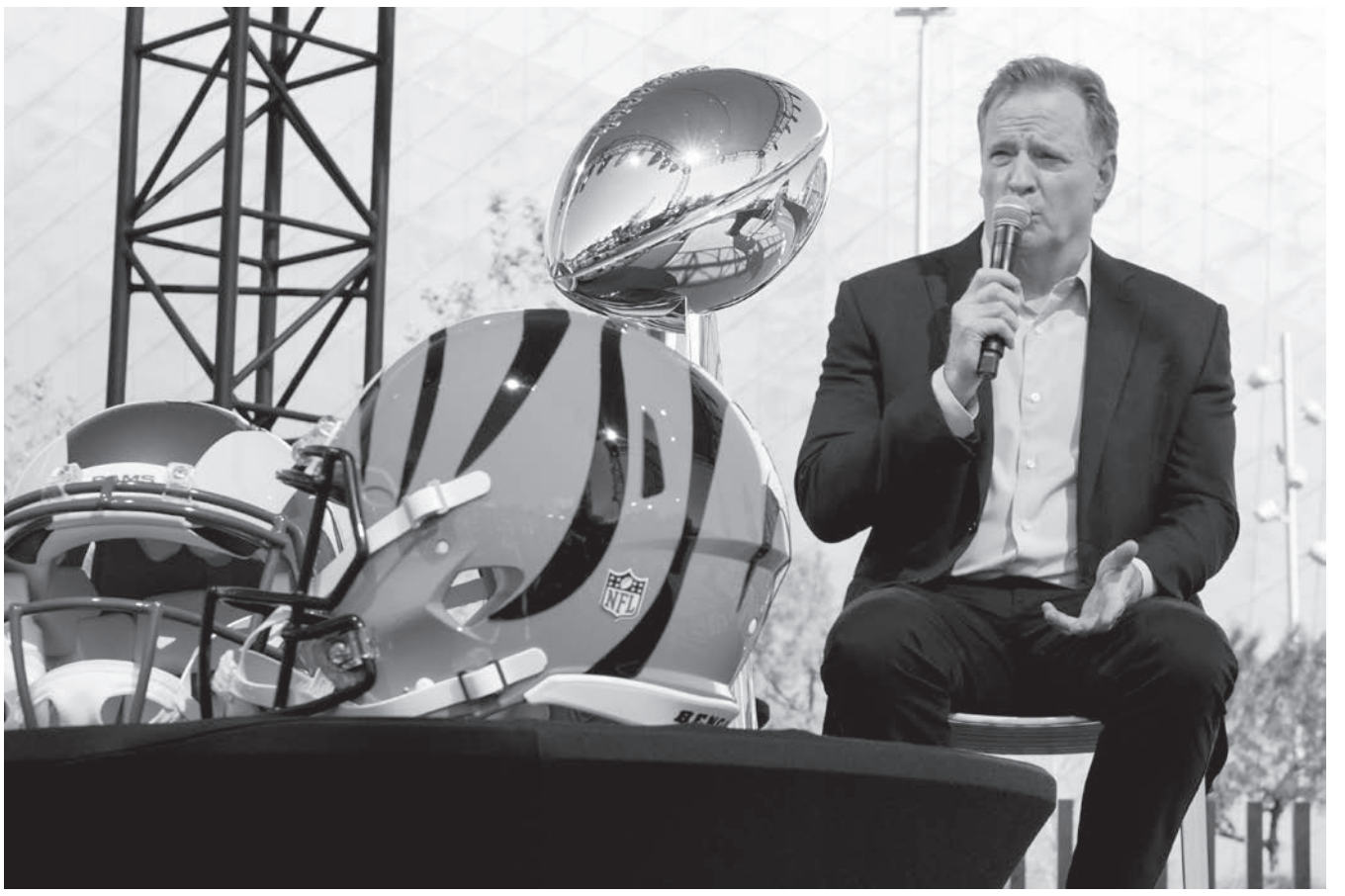
Follow that with OTAs and minicamps, and before Rams fans have exhausted their celebrations of winning the Lombardi Trophy, training camps are opening.

All of that drawing the kind of attention every other sport envies.

"If you look what's happening to ratings around the league, more and more people are watching NFL football because of the quality of the game," Commissioner Roger Goodell said last week. "We've had extraordinary games this year with an extraordinary season, and that content is even more valuable.

"So to me, it's really focusing on how do we share our game with more people and build that; the revenue follows that, that's not the driver. What's the driver is how do we get more fans? And how do we engage them more with the opportunities that we have?"

But first:



AP

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell speaks at a news conference Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif.

FLORES LAWSUIT

Possibly the most headline-grabbing topic will be former Miami Dolphins coach Brian Flores' lawsuit against the NFL and its teams. The league has no choice but to investigate Flores' allegations of racism and being offered money to tank games by Dolphins owner Stephen Ross. The far-reaching implications here could and should overshadow any other news in the offseason.

"Integrity of the game is obviously an important element, just as making sure we have the right culture in our organizations, across the league and at clubs," Goodell said. "But we are going to look into that and we will make sure that if there were violations that they won't be tolerated."

COMMANDERS' CULTURE

Recent statements to Congress by people claiming the Washington team, newly named Commanders, had a culture rife with inappropriate behavior and mistreatment, has reinvigorated demands for change at owner Dan Snyder's franchise. The league will continue to be pressured to reveal specific information from investigations of the team.

SCOUTING COMBINE

A full-fledged combine is planned for Indianapolis as the league relies on its pandemic protocols that seemed to work well in 2021. Teams have been warned that they could lose a draft pick and face significant fines if club representatives conduct themselves unprofessionally in interviews with draft prospects. That includes asking inappropriate questions.

"All clubs should ensure that prospective draft picks are afforded a respectful and professional NFL environment — one that is consistent with state and federal law and our shared commitment to respect, diversity and inclusion," the NFL told the 32 clubs in January.

FREE AGENCY

Will it be wild? Is Patrick Mahomes fun to watch?

And no, the Chiefs quarterback won't be taking part in free agency for the rest of this decade. But there always are plenty of big names (and huge money) involved when the "legal tampering" period begins March 14. Signings can become official on March 16.

Potential free agents include Packers All-Pro wideout Davante Adams, Bucs WR Chris Godwin, Chargers WR Mike Williams, Saints tackle Terron Armstead and Commanders tackle Brandon Scherff on offense. Defensively, Rams LB Von Miller, CBs Stephon Gilmore of Carolina and J.C. Jackson of New England, and edge rushers Chandler Jones of Arizona and Harold Landry III of Tennessee top the list.

OWNERS' MEETINGS

In late March, owners will consider several issues, notably whether to make rules changes for special teams given data showing kick plays are the game's most dangerous.

Updates and moderations to the Rooney Rule, which requires teams to interview minority candidates for leadership positions but has been criticized as inadequate, are possible. There also could be changes to some media rights, most significantly the Sunday Ticket deal that is up for bids after next season.

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS ...

Won't stay in Vegas. The draft is there, and fans from 32 franchises will be entranced by whatever their team does. Given the locale, many of those fans could be on The Strip for the proceedings as Sin City attempts to match or surpass what Nashville achieved in 2019.

With no college quarterbacks jumping to the front of the line — at least not yet — intrigue about what Jacksonville will do with the first pick again will be high. There was no chance the Jaguars would trade out of getting Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence last year. This time, who knows?

Rams bask in Super Bowl win, hope McVay, Donald want another

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sean McVay looked and sounded very much like somebody who had been up all night celebrating his first Super Bowl victory when the coach showed up early Monday morning to discuss his Los Angeles Rams' hometown coronation.

"It's an incredible honor to be here," McVay said, his sandpaper rasp accentuating his sarcasm. "It's also torturous to have a team win a championship and then make you come the next morning to a press conference this early."

With the Rams' 23-20 victory over the Cincinnati Bengals, McVay has finally reached the culmination of a journey he began in early 2017 as the youngest head coach in modern NFL history. Just over five years later, the 36-year-old is also the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl — and the trip left him exhausted, but thrilled.

McVay said nothing Monday about the possibility of walking away from football soon, as the burnout-prone coach has suggested when asked about it over the years. But he didn't sound like he was finished with his work on a team he built into a champion.

"I've been surrounded by great people," McVay said. "When you get around great players, great coaches that are all committed and working in the same direction, pulling that rope in the same direction, good things can happen. When you have the right foundational pieces ... because of those guys' success, other people get opportunities to grow."

Aaron Donald also hit his career's peak by making the decisive defensive play on Cincinnati's final snap, harassing Joe Burrow into a fourth-down incompletion to finish a Super Bowl performance that included two sacks. The three-time AP Defensive Player of the Year finally has his first ring — and the 30-year-old star also sidestepped questions about early retirement immediately after the victory.

Rams chief operating officer Kevin Demoff says the team will wait until its celebrations die down to figure out how serious McVay and Donald are about starting life after football, but he is optimistic they'll both be back.

"I think all of these guys are wiped," Demoff said. "When you get to this point, the gas tank is empty and you're sitting there holding a trophy. I think that's daunting to some degree when you wake up this morning and realize you've got to go do it all over again, and you don't have the energy. So I think the talk is actually natural.

"And I would agree. I don't think Sean's current pace is sustainable in terms of how much work he puts in if you want to have a family. But I think the one thing, these guys all love football. They love being around each other. ... These are all natural questions that are hard to answer in the moment. A month away, two months away from everybody, and I think things will feel a lot better."

Not even a Super Bowl championship affected Rams owner Stan Kroenke's career-long reluctance to speak publicly about his many sports teams, but Demoff said the billionaire who built SoFi Stadium was "happier than I've ever seen him" after raising his first Lombardi Trophy.

"He took the two biggest risks in the NFL that I can think of in the last decade," Demoff said. "Buying land to build a stadium, hoping to get the opportunity to become the Los Angeles Rams again, and hiring a 30-year-old head coach when everybody wanted a major name. Those two risks culminated last night with unbelievable reward."

The Rams have done everything big since Kroenke relocated them to Los Angeles from his native Missouri six years ago. Landing in a glamorous town that had largely forgotten them, the Rams got everybody's attention again by developing an appetite for risks and stocking their roster with veteran stars.

Many of those stars played key roles in the Rams' 16th and final victory. From Donald and Von Miller to Matthew Stafford and Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp, Los Angeles' big names loomed large in the grand finale.

"There were so many guys on this team that have just respected this game, have put in the work and the time," said Kupp, who looked less annoyed than his boss to be awake shortly after sunrise. "That was a huge thing coming into this. So many guys just said, 'Hey, we've got guys here that deserve a Super Bowl. We've got to win this for them.'"

It happened one last time in the Super Bowl when Cincinnati scored 17 consecutive points to take a 20-13 lead several minutes into the third quarter. The Rams' offense managed just three points from seven consecutive possessions before its final drive — a 15-play, 79-yard imperfect masterpiece ending in Kupp's 1-yard TD catch.

"We talk a lot about just being able to do your job," Kupp said. "We went through a little bit of a lull there leading into halftime and through that third quarter. We just needed to keep pushing and keep trusting in the details of things."

The Rams kept the party going at Disneyland later Monday, and they'll get a victory parade in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

After medals, Humphries, Meyers Taylor back on Olympic ice

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympic routine for Kaillie Humphries and Elana Meyers Taylor has always been the same. They would arrive, train, compete, win a medal and go home.

Such was the case in 2010. And again in 2014. And again in 2018.

Not this time.

The celebration after the monobob competition was short-lived for Humphries and Meyers Taylor. Barely 24 hours after they won their fourth Olympic medals — gold for Humphries, silver for Meyers Taylor — they were back at work at the Yanqing Sliding Center, with Tuesday being the first day of official training for the traditional two-woman competition that begins Friday.

And their answers, in separate post-training interviews Tuesday, were eerily similar.

Said Humphries: "I'm tired. I won't lie."

Said Meyers Taylor: "Pretty tired. Not going to lie."

Ah, but neither minded being tired, either.

The Beijing Games are the first in Olympic history with two medal events for women's bobsledders, something that Humphries and Meyers Taylor began seriously pushing for when they took it upon themselves to start competing in four-man events eight years ago. In 2018, the International Olympic Committee said the second bobsled event for women would be added to the program starting this year — but went with monobob, with just a driver in the sled, instead of the four-person sled that Humphries and Meyers Taylor wanted.

Clearly, they fought through their disappointment. Humphries was the world monobob champion last year, Meyers Taylor won the monobob World Series — the equivalent of a World Cup — this season and their 1-2 finish in the Olympic race was the first gold-silver result for the U.S. in a bobsled event since the 1932 Lake Placid Games.

AP

Kaillie Humphries, of the United States, left, celebrates with teammate Elana Meyers Taylor, winning the gold medal in the women's monobob at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Monday, Feb. 14, 2022, in the Yanqing district of Beijing.

"The biggest thing is trying to recover as muc as possible while sti getting some qual ity training runs in, Meyers Taylor said.

They becam the seventh set of American women to grab gold and silver in the same event in Winter Olympic history, the first since Lindsey Vonn and Julia Mancuso did so in the women's downhill at the 2010 Vancouver Games — and the first in sliding since Tristan Gale and Lea Ann Parsley finished 1-2 in women's skeleton at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

And now, they get some help. Both said they were relying big-time on their brakemen Tuesday; Humphries is getting pushed by Kaysha Love, Meyers Taylor is getting pushed by Sylvia Hoffman. For Love and Hoffman, Friday's race will represent their Olympic debut.

"It's been a hurry-up-and-wait type of scenario," said Hoffman, who arrived in Beijing about three weeks ago but hadn't been able to get on the ice. "I've been pretty antsy to get into the sled. I've been going on track walks and trying to support the ladies the best way I can until it's my turn to jump into the sled and my turn to do what I need to do to make sure me and Elana get down the hill as fast as possible."

Love got a few runs on the track with Humphries in the first week of February but hadn't been on the ice in about two weeks.

"Yesterday was just incredible," Love said. "Just to watch the way she handled all the pressure and everything that came her way, it was just inspiring and it made me super-excited to know that I'm going to be in the back of her sled in a couple days."

In the two training runs Tuesday, Meyers Taylor was sixth-fastest in the first heat of training and tied for seventh-fastest in the second heat.

"I feel like I'm making some good progress," Meyers Taylor said. "Switching to two-man from monobob, that's just going to take some time to get my hands ready."

Humphries was the fastest out of 16 sleds in the first heat and second-fastest in the second heat behind defending Olympic women's champion Mariama Jamanka of Germany. The other two German sleds in the Olympic field — piloted by Laura Nolte and Kim Kalicki — did not take part in the training Tuesday.

"It's different having to plan and prepare and knowing that you can't just stay up until all hours and not really care afterwards," Humphries said. "I have another race. I'm accountable to another person and still to Team USA. This is what we asked for — so here we go, right back into it again, a whole other event, but I'm really, really excited for it. I'm excited to be teammates with Kaysha and to see what we can do."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	34	22	.607	—
Boston	33	25	.569	2
Toronto	31	25	.554	3
Brooklyn	30	27	.526	4½
New York	25	33	.431	10

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	37	20	.649	—
Charlotte	29	29	.500	8½
Atlanta	26	30	.464	10½
Washington	26	30	.464	10½
Orlando	13	46	.220	25

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	37	21	.638	—
Cleveland	35	22	.614	1½
Milwaukee	35	23	.603	2
Indiana	19	39	.328	18
Detroit	12	45	.211	24½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	40	18	.690	—
Dallas	33	24	.579	6½
New Orleans	23	34	.404	16½
San Antonio	22	36	.379	18
Houston	15	41	.268	24

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	36	21	.632	—
Denver	32	25	.561	4
Minnesota	30	27	.526	6
Portland	24	34	.414	12½
Oklahoma City	18	39	.316	18

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	46	10	.821	—
Golden State	42	16	.724	5
L.A. Clippers	29	30	.492	18½
L.A. Lakers	26	31	.456	20½
Sacramento	22	37	.373	25½

DAYRIT

From Page 20

tory line making printers.

"It's a really good company and the pay is really high and the work is not stressful and it's very easy. Many of my coworkers have been with the company for over 50 years already and they're all friendly. We have free milk and juice all the time and the best thing is our bosses always show us that we're valued employees. After three months you will also get a salary increase so I really thank God for blessing me with this job."

Dayrit first arrived on Saipan in 1996 and worked for several companies while suiting up for numerous leagues in his spare time. He momentarily left the island in 2010 but not before winning two championships, bagging the MVP of the Mobil Invitational Basketball League while suiting up for TanHoldings, and being named two times in the same league's mythical five. He returned to Saipan in 2016 and saw action in mostly masters leagues.

PIONEER

From Page 20

anymore," he said.

Like 2021 Fil-Taga Ace of the Year winner Ruben Avendano, Cruz is dedicating his victory in the January tilt to club members who passed away recently—Raffy Piamonte and Larry Pascual.

Finishing second to Cruz in the January ace was Mendoza, who carded a net 73 built around a gross score of 88 (42-46), while third place went to Hak Chon Bae after he recorded a net 74 (gross 88, 45-43).

A total of 13 golfers took part in the January ace and the rest are the following with their net scores in parenthesis: Ruben Avendano (78), Ed Varias (78), Rodel Macasinag (78), Dan Ganacias (79), William Retardo (80), Emil Padernal (80), Henry Bautista (81), Freddie Cataluna (81), Bert Suda (85), and Jess Yumul (87).

In the par 3 competition, Mendoza, Padernal, and Retardo were without peer in their respective holes.

CHCC

From Page 20

ing and running," she said.

Kong, who is also vice president of Run Saipan, hopes to engage a lot of CHCC staff as well as the local community to take part in running events like the upcoming Happy Hearts 5K.

"I think we really have seen in the hospital and clinic setting how much obesity, diabetes, and things like that in terms of chronic medical conditions there and we really want to promote increasing our cardiovascular health. We want to show our support for running and walking."

Dr. Lily Muldoon, Sunshine Squad public relations officer, said they couldn't have picked a better non-profit to donate to than Run Saipan.

"We are excited about Run Saipan because as healthcare providers we want to promote healthy activities and Run Saipan is an amazing organization on island. They've gone over and beyond to create activities for people to stay healthy and move their bodies."

She also encouraged everyone to take part the Healthy Hearts 5K event on March 18 and is crossing her fingers that a lot of staff from CHCC also join in.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. thanked the CHCC Sunshine Squad for their very generous donation.

"We are grateful that CHCC has asked us to partner with them for their community-based event. The generous contribution is for the helping to make the 5K event as beautiful as possible for the public. Thanks to their donation we will be able to provide high quality finisher's T-shirts and refreshment which we rarely do for 5K runs. Thank you so much CHCC," he said

Incidentally, Run Saipan will host the Marianas Ekiden this Saturday, Feb. 19.

MARK RABAGO

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Sunshine Squad officers donate $1,500 to Run Saipan, led by its president Edward Dela Cruz Jr., during a turnover ceremony at the American Memorial Park last Feb . 2

Simons scores 31 as Trail Blazers beat Bucks, minus Giannis

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

After medals, Humphries, Meyers Taylor back on Olympic

PAGE 19

Dayrit wins another championship

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Another month. Another championship.

That seems to be the case for former Saipan resident Bogs Dayrit after he and his team, San Diego Ballers, won the One-Day SoCal Basketball Tournament (Filipino 50-and-over, 6'4" and under division) last Jan. 16 at Rancho Cocumonga, California.

The 5'11" veteran of many commercial leagues on Saipan said they faced the team of ex-Philippine Basketball Association players Romy Dela Rosa and Django Rivera in the finals and fortunately won after losing to them in the elimination round.

"We lost badly to them in the eliminations. Romy Dela Rosa and Django Rivera played with different teams in the last tournament we won but now they joined forces. They're a tough team but luckily we beat them in the finals despite trailing by 10 points in the early goings," said the native of Cavite, Philippines in Filipino.

In the finals, San Diego Ballers went down 1-11 against Dela Rosa, Rivera, and company. Dayrit's team, however, changed strategies and went man-to-man on defense. That led to a 17-0 spurt that allowed them to open an 18-11 advantage and they didn't look back after that and won the championship running away.

Dayrit contributed 10 points in their finals win in a reserved roll. He said he didn't mind coming off the bench as his team has been together for so long. Besides, he's the first to admit that he hasn't been practicing too much and is a bit rusty.

"But my teammates appreciate me and in fact told me I'm their lucky charm. But I'm really the lucky one because I have really good teammates, especially my childhood friend Gerry Cadua and tourney MVP Sandy San Diego. We were only seven in the elimination round but good thing another player arrived before the finals. He defended Dela Rosa in the championship."

What's next for Dayrit? He said after his dalliance with the 50-and-over tournament, he is now setting his sights in joining the more competitive 40-and-over league. But first things first, he admits he's a bit overweight as he's now 220 lbs.

"Need to go back to fighting weight of between 190 lbs and 200 lbs before I play in leagues and tournaments again. It's hard to bike and 1. reserve play basketball carrying that extra weight around."

Last Jan. 31, Dayrit also started work at Hewlett Packard, where he works in the fac-

See DAYRIT on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boys Dayrit, right poses with teammate Sandy San Diego after their team, San Diego Ballers, won the One-Day So-Cal Basketball Tournament (Filipino 50-and-over, 6'4" and under division) last Jan. 16.

Pioneer tops year's first Ace of the Month

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Mike Cruz was hailed champion of the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament last Jan. 22 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 73-year-old club pioneer shot a net 71 after recording a gross of 91 (43-48) in the second round of Fil-Taga's Ace of the Year Tournament. The club used Round 2 of the season-ending competition as their January tourney.

The owner of NorthPac Construction pulled out the win despite the inclement weather that saw winds turn to sheets of rain, especially later in the round.

"When it rained it was hard and my score also went bad. In the front nine my score was good because it wasn't raining yet although the winds were already strong," Cruz said in Filipino.

Good thing that veteran golfers like him and Lito Mendoza can drive the ball low, which was an advantage when the weather went south that particular Saturday.

"We can drive the ball low so even against the wind, Lito and I can still drive the ball long and straight. We already have that technique mastered because we've been playing golf for such a long time," he said.

Cruz can now heave a sigh of relief after winning the club's first monthly tournament.

"I don't have to look to win the monthly ace anymore because I already won. This means I will just play for the money the next monthly tournaments," he said.

Cruz added that when you reach 73 years old, your performance in the golf course now squarely depends on conditioning.

"That day I felt okay. Because of my left knee injury, I just exercise with my dumbbells so my upper body will have the strength to swing even if my lower body doesn't really cooperate that much

See PIONEER on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mike Cruz won the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament last Jan. 22 with a net 71.

CHCC Sunshine Squad donates $1.5K to Run Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s charity/social events committee—otherwise known as the Sunshine Squad—brought heaps of rays to the local running community after donating $1,500 to Run Saipan.

Sunshine Squad president Dr. Jenna Kong said the $1,500 represents their quarterly donation to the islands' non-profit organizations.

"Run Saipan just started out as a non-profit organization and we're really looking forward to all the races they're going to put on especially our collaboration in March which is Run Saipan's Happy Hearts 5K and that's to promote cardiovascular health, through walk-

See CHCC on Page 19